Saturday, June 25, 2011 | ★★ | 1 section | Vol. 35 | No. 177 | P18 | www.inquirer.net | Manila Area: Tel 892-0000

NEWS

Confession of 'TNT' Pulitzer winner draws cheers, jeers / A2

Muntinlupa plastic-free, flood-free / A7

Widow of Gerry Ortega appeals to De Lima not to inhibit self / A5

WORLD

US high court rules vs $89-M claim of Anna Nicole Smith / A23

SUPER

Forget movies, TV: What to watch online this weekend / E4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TWISTED A man starts cutting branches from a tree uprooted after a freak twister that hit parts of Quezon City on Friday. Tropical Storm "Falcon" continued to pound Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon with heavy rains, triggering flash floods and forcing some 52,000 to flee river basins. Falcon is expected to exit tomorrow.

US ready to arm PH

Washington to honor 1951 defense treaty

WASHINGTON—The United States said Thursday it was ready to provide hardware to modernize the Philippine military, and the Philippines vowed to "stand up to aggressive action" amid rising tension at sea with China.

"We are determined and committed to supporting the defense of the Philippines," Clinton said when asked about the hardware with her host the Philippines.

She said the United States was committed to providing the Philippines affordable military equipment to defend itself.

At a joint news conference with Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario, US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton also said Washington would honor its 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty with Manila that calls on each country to help defend the other against an external attack in their territories or in "the Pacific area."

Del Rosario, with Clinton at his side, said the Philippines hoped to be better prepared to upgrade its aged fleet and called for the allies to encourage diplomatic leadership in light of the friction with China.

Tensions in the Spratly Islands have escalated in recent months.

US SECRETARY of State Hillary Clinton assures Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario that America is committed to the defense of the Philippines during a media briefing following their 'private bilateral meeting on Thursday in Washington, DC.

GMA blasts Noy: Nobody home

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MANSING of "danger signs" that the economic gains from the reforms instituted during her term might not be sustained under the present administration, former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday blasted away at President Benigno Aquino for his "nobody home" leadership in his first year in office.

In her first major press conference since leaving office, Arroyo, who is now a Pampanga representative, said Mr. Aquino should be building on the successes of past administrations.

"The gains I made were built on the efforts of previous leaders because every administration should build on previous successes," she told a press briefing yesterday.

Malacañang promptly came

STORM 'FALCON'

Twisters rip roofs, uproot trees in QC

By Tarra Quismundo and Inquirer Services

AS THOUGH the relentless rains brought by Tropical Storm "Falcon" were not enough, twisters (yes, yes!) yesterday hit Quezon City and a town in Bulacan, shearing off and damaging public and private property, including the house of industrialist Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

A weather forecaster at the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), said eyewitnesses and an on-site inspection would be critical in determining the nature of the twisters.

But witnesses in west Ilang-Ilang off Visayas Avenue in New Manila, Barangay 168 Bambang in Quezon City, Aldrex Zambo was definite that Falcon and the southwest monsoon caused powerful winds to spin around the area.

Rains 14 times the daily average recorded every June poured within 24 hours because of the southwest monsoon, Aurelio said.

Some 167.3 millimeters of rain fell at the Pagasa rain ob-

Funny face of disaster risk reduction

By DJ Yap and Dona Pazzibugan

FOR someone who has probably one of the grimmest jobs in government, disaster management chief Benito Ramos is a humorist who uses quips and jokes to lighten his work or disarm the humor-deficient.

At a press briefing yesterday, a reporter jokingly asked the executive director of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC): "Do you think you'll vote

Enchanted Farm draws int'l youth volunteers

By Christine V. Esguerra

A TOP FILIPINO graduate was all set to pursue higher studies in the United States as a Fulbright program scholar.

But she passed up the opportunity and responded to what she considered a higher calling. She found herself working in a farm in a nondescript village unsurprisingly named "Veronica" in Angat, Bulacan province.

That's where she met another volunteer, a young French woman now designing logos and garments for the community (set up by Conrad Ballinger IOR).

A total of 600 interns from Europe flew halfway across the globe, including 1,500 volunteers from Singapore, to be part of the pioneering "tourism ecosystem" project now clarifying in the village.

Angat's Enchanted Farm is considered the first Center for

'For farmers' benefit,' but not a share in his name

By Fernando del Mundo
Chief, Chem

[illegible]

FOR COCONUT farmers, the post-Marcos era was a period of dashed hopes.

In the so-called re-democratization process, interests of the old and new oligarchs and political bosses merged to keep the tillers impoverished as instruments of plunder, polluted during the martial law years, were refined in captive institutions, even of the new dispensation said.

The controversy over shares of stock in San Miguel Corp. (SMC), which were ordered sequestered by President Corazon Aquino after the ouster of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, illustrates this continuing tragedy.

Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, 75, a close associate of the dictator who fled with him to Hawaii 25 years ago, acquired the shares in 1983, allegedly using taxpayer low funds, for 192 billion in complex deal that involved intricate layers of corporate schemes.

The SMC shares are now valued at P220 billion—more than the combined 190 billion worth of illegally acquired as-

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

6/49
14 27 16 3 3 5

4D
4 5 3 6 7 4

SUPER LOTTO 6/42
3 7 1 7 9 1 3

MEGA LOTTO 6/45
3 5 20 21 33 34
P4,500,000.00

TNT's confession cheered, jeered

By Julie M. Aurelio and Inquirer Research

VARGAS

AFTER COMING clean about his status as an illegal immigrant, Philippine-born Pulitzer Prize winner Jose Antonio Vargas now has a growing army of Facebook fans.

By yesterday, the Jose Antonio Vargas page had 602 fans and elicited hundreds of comments, mostly praising Vargas for his courage in admitting that he had been living in the United States using fake documents.

Vargas revealed his undocumented status in a 3,400-all essay published in the New York Times on Wednesday. He even revealed how it had seemed less daunting for him to admit he was gay than admit that he had no genuine papers to stay in the US.

Facebook fans expressed sympathy and admiration for him, while others relished him the best in realizing his dream of a US citizenship.

Still others slammed him.

Stephen Bardon said: "American citizenship is not about certificates or any piece of paper. It's a way of life. Mr. Vargas is no American in the truest sense of the word."

Others, like Miss de Sanch, called Vargas a pariah, for his an illegal immigrant or not.

"Mr. Vargas: How you told the truth. Finally you will be able to sleep at night. I hope you talk to President Barack Obama and he can help you to speed the citizenship process," his message read.

A woman who said she was from New Zealand said it was time the US made his citizenship "official."

"Read about you this morning, you've made the news in New Zealand. You are already a hard working, responsible citizen, more than the USA ex let you make it official. All the best!" she said.

Others thanked Vargas for sharing his story with the world.

A woman signing herself as "Belinda OLC" said: "Solomo" (Thanks) for sharing your story and showing that there are many illegal immigrants here who do contribute to society and make a difference in our world."

Is he different?

Others were not so kind.

Bonita Fabos said: "Jose, pay your taxes and then you'll be an American citizen. Not before. Pay your taxes or go to war for the USA. You can't live here illegally. They will make an example of you yet!"

Another Facebook page, titled "Going Jose Antonio Vargas (Zukkerchip," had 21 "likes" as of press time.

A woman calling herself Michelle Lorene Villalobos asked what made Vargas different from other illegal immigrants in the US.

"Not to be rude but what makes him any better than a father raising his children that is here illegally?... Why is Jose any better? There are hundreds if not more square every day, and people are only worried about the ones that don't have a family here in the US. what gives?" she asked.

Twitter comments

Vargas' Twitter account followers shot up to 8,787 after the New York Times published his story.

Joseph for comment, Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Eduardo Malaya said he was not aware if Vargas had asked for assistance from the Philippine Embassy or consulates about his problems.

"However, if he asks for help, just like any Filipino abroad who is distressed, the Philippines will provide assistance," Malaya said.

US Embassy acting public affairs officer Alan Holst, also contacted for comment, said in a text message: "Aware of possible [illegal immigrant or illegal alien] in the United States are under the purview of the Department of Homeland Security in the United States."

Several Twitter users called Vargas' article "inspiring" and "brave."

Twitter user Claudine D. Tan (claudinetan) said: "Everyone has a dream, a right to a fighting chance for life they are meant to live."

Twitterian Ivan Zaphiel Ocebe (ZaphielOC) said: "I think if Jose Antonio Vargas gets deported he can get an awesome job or a position in Asia, using a legal Filipino passport."

"On behalf of Filipino citizenry, I thank you sir," said Regina Ralph on Facebook.

"You have given a voice to millions of Americans living in fear," said user Pekkie Roldan on the same site.

User Nonoy Ebarle Jr. likewise left inspiring words for Vargas. "Your courage is mightier than any pen or sword. Your story will illuminate the dark paths for those who can't speak out. It's high time America give you what you deserve for being a good citizen, Mabuhay ka!"

Overall, everyone, however, was sympathetic.

In his online article, "The Lie Assured, must isn't a get-out-of-jail card," Dan Barden of the Charleston Daily Mail said: "Good reporter or not, lock the lying, illegal alien Jose Antonio Vargas out."

'I tried to persuade him to keep quiet'

THE HEARTBROKEN mother of 41-year-Filipino-returning journalist who came out as an illegal immigrant in the United States told The Inquirer yesterday from that she tried to persuade him to keep quiet.

Jose Antonio Vargas' mother Emily Abogne-Salinas, now back from Zambales in the Philippines after visiting her grandparents in California when he was 12 said his coming out as a surprise.

She said in a telephone interview on Thursday evening that she worried about the consequences of his revelations to the US media and that he could be deported or barred from ever coming back to the country.

"He could not understand ... he was already there, he already achieved his dream, what else did he want?" she said.

At the end, she said she supported him because it was his choice.

A Virgin relative, who asked for anonymity, told the Inquirer that the family had been apprehensive because Vargas' disclosure in the media about his life as an illegal immigrant could affect his future. A brother is now living in the United States.

Sources in Zambales said Vargas' mother, who now lives in Antipolo City, has remarried.

Vargas, 30, who shared a Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the Virginia Tech massacre as a reporter for The Washington Post, says he didn't know about his citizenship status until four years after he arrived in the US, when he applied for a driver's permit and handed a fake green card.

Vargas confessed his grandfather who acknowledged he purchased the green card and other fake documents.

Salinas, 51, a former office assistant, told the AP that her son was ready for the consequences of his actions, the possibility of deportation—and had already obtained a Philippine passport.

He has been wanting to see his family in the Philippines and has promised his younger sister, whose carrying education he is financing, that he would come home for her graduation next year, she said.

He also has a 14-year-old brother who he has only seen on the internet.

"We are excited to see him," Salinas added. "I just hope he can come home with his documents in order."

When she met him off to study in... Salinas said she promised she would follow him and had applied several times for a US visa but was denied.

Unfulfilled promise

She said that she felt her son retained her unfulfilled promise not for a time after he went to college, he seldom called or wrote letters. But she said they resumed contact after he joined the Washington Post.

Salinas, who separated from Vargas' father when the boy was 1, said she could not afford to send her son to school in the Philippines. She said she sent him to his grandparents in the US because they were mother, she wanted a good future for him.

"In the beginning, there were times I would think I wish I did not send him there, I wish we could be together, especially during special occasions," she said. "But I saw either he was doing... I saw that he was achieving his dreams, getting the things which he could not get here." AP/Robert Mesenga, Inquirer Central Luzon and Aine Collejo in Manila

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF SALE THRU MARKET BETTERMENT PRICING (MBP) OF IMPORTED RICE 25% BROKENS AND 15% BROKENS

JB MUSIC

New Saudi policy worries OFWs; gov't urged to act

By Jerome Aning

OVERSEAS Filipino workers, now government organizations, and labor secretary have asked on President Aquino to formulate a national policy to address the impact of Saudi Arabia's plan to limit migrant workers in the Kingdom.

Participants who attended a symposium in Pasay City on Thursday were unanimous in expressing their concern that the so-called "nitaqat" policy announced recently by the Saudi government would lead to massive loss of OFW jobs in the kingdom.

'Nitaqat'

"The Philippine government must study and prepare for the implications of nitaqat on more than a million OFWs in the kingdom. We would like to see a more pro-active approach taken to replacing the nitaqat for the workers and their families," said former labor undersecretary Susan Ople, president of the Blas F. Ople Policy Center that co-sponsored the symposium.

The "nitaqat" aims to apply 20% emergentes of quotas that vary based on the line of work and size of company.

Saudi Arabia will impose a six-year cap on residency visas for expatriate workers if their companies fail before the expanded quotas. The Saudi labor ministry's ideal setup for firms is to have more than 10 percent of their employees as for Saudi citizens.

All companies in the kingdom must comply with the "nitaqat" by Sept. 30.

Lawyer Aguilino "Nitoy" Pimentel III, another consensus of the symposium, said Manila had no choice but to respect Riyadh's new policy which is meant to address the sharp rise in joblessness among Saudi youths.

"They (the Saudis) are clearly looking out for the welfare and advancement of their own citizens. We might to do the same by preparing a contingency plan for our own nationals that would be affected by Saudization," said Pimentel, who is the president of the PDP-Laban the political party.

Pimentel said he would bring concerns of the OFW and recruitment sectors to his party. Sen. Vice President Jejomar Binay who is the concurrent presidential adviser on OFW affairs.

LBS Recruitment Industries Corp. president Lito Sarmiento, one of the consensus, said the nitaqat would affect Saudi-based OFWs who are retirees and who earn more and send more.

Citing government data, Sarmiento said that in 2009, there were 254,410 OFWs deployed in Saudi Arabia, of whom nearly 77 percent were retirees.

Saudi unrest

On the other hand, if Saudi-based workers were to comply with nitaqat and stop hiring migrant workers, the deployment of newly-hired OFWs would also be affected, Sarmiento said.

He pointed out that 80,000 of the new hires were professional and skilled workers, compared to about 20,000 service workers, which he feels decreased.

Sen. said Shalaby should immediately formulate and implement a strategic employment and diplomatic agenda in Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Middle East, which has been rocked by revolts and protests due to joblessness and worsening economic conditions.

Department of Foreign Affairs-Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs executive director Rizalde Bautista said Philippine ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Ezzedin Tago, had been asked to conduct a study and submit recommendations on the effects of the nitaqat on OFW jobs.

Chit Estella awards for journalism

THE FAMILY of the late VERA Files creator and journalism professor Lourdes "Chit" Estella Stimberis and VERA Files launched on Tuesday the Chit Estella Awards for Journalism.

The launching was timed with the commemoration of the 40th day of her death and her interment at the San Agustin Church columbarium.

Stimberis, a journalist of three decades, was known to the public by her byline "Chit Estella." She was killed on the evening of May 13 when a Universal Gliding Bus ran rammed the taxi she was in near the Ayala Technohub on Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.

VERA Files president Ellen Tordesillas, who unveiled the awards, said the Chit Estella Awards for Journalism will honor the year's best journalistic report and photo essay in print and online the media Stimberis worked in during her year. The awards are intended to keep alive the excellent and principled journalism Stimberis had always engaged in, she said.

The awarding will be held every August, Stimberis's birth month. Members would have been 54 on Aug. 19.

The award-giving body will be composed of veteran journalists and journalism teachers and trainers. At the time of her death, Stimberis was a journalism professor at the University of the Philippines Diliman.

Stimberis's family is providing the seed funding for the awards that will be administered by VERA Files in cooperation with a university. The mechanics of the awards are being finalized.

The UP College of Mass Communication also unveiled a photo exhibit in honor of the veteran journalist. It will run until Aug. 19.

END OF SEASON
UP TO 50% OFF
July 1 - 31, 2011
Greenbelt 5 - Trinoma - SM Megamall - SM Southmall
Robinsons Ermita - Gateway Mall - SM Cebu
Ayala Center Cebu - Abreeza Davao
promod
www.promod.com

Purchase of the Pasig lot aboveboard, says SM

Ahead. WHERE WE PLACE YOU.

The ATENEO GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (AGSB) is a premier business and management educational institution committed to the finest tradition of academic excellence and service. By enhancing management theory with real-world practices in our programs, we develop business practitioners into strategic and effective managers. By enriching management skills with values in our programs, we nurture business practitioners into professional and ethical business leaders committed to nation-building.

Applications for admission of new students for the 2nd Trimester, School Year 2011 – 2012 for the following degree programs is now going on:

- MBA STANDARD PROGRAM: A 21-to 36-month evening program for young professionals to become senior managers and leaders in the future.
- ATENEO-REGIS ACCELERATED MBA PROGRAM: A Flexible and accelerated 16-month program for employed managers training to become future CEOs and senior executives.
- MIDDLE MANAGER MBA PROGRAM: A focused 36-month program for employed managers training to become future CEOs and senior executives.
- MBA IN HEALTH PROGRAM: A 18-month program for professionals and leaders in the health sector.
- MASTER IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP (MEI) PROGRAM: An 18-month program that targets real-life entrepreneurs who want to pursue considerable enterprise growth by enhancing self-mastery and improving functional skills in marketing, finance, operations and human resources.

For ME program, you may call at 8930879 or at 09975681 loc. 2407

Online admission is also accepted. Please visit http://gsb.ateneo.edu and click online admission and fill out the application form. For more details email emanila@agsb.ateneo.edu or lilbacani@agsb.ateneo.edu

SCHEDULE OF ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS: 8:00 a.m., Saturday, July 2 & Aug. 13, 2011

Ahead. WHERE LEADERS PLACE THEMSELVES.

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

ATENEO PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS BUILDING
ROCKWELL DRIVE, ROCKWELL CENTER, CITY OF MAKATI, PHILIPPINES
DIVINE WISDOM CHAPEL
TEL. (632) 890-7697 TO 98 OR (632) 726-2001 TO 2071 • FAX: (632) 895-1546
WEBSITE: HTTP://GSB.ATENEO.EDU

HE TESTIFIED said the 2009 sale of the property of Hijos Pedro Cuenca Inc. to Pasig Cuenca Consolidated Realty Development Corp., a member of the SM Group, was aboveboard.

In a statement, SM said the deal was consummated following final approval on March 24, 2010, approval of the compromise agreement between and among the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), the Philippine Integrated Rural Corp. (Pinarez) and Pedro Subido, the controlling stockholder of Pinarez.

SM said the Supreme Court on June 16, 2003, ordered the termination of the petition of the MPCP and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) seeking to retrieve the July 2006 ruling of Sandiganbayan that upheld the lease purchase agreement (LPA) between MPCP and Pinarez.

The Sandiganbayan issued the resolution after the MPCP, GSIS, Pinarez and Subido made a manifestation on March 29, 2010, that they had amicably settled the earlier petition to restore the Sandiganbayan ruling upholding the LPA.

Amicable settlement

The amicable settlement was reached following Consolidated's initial discussions in 2009 with PCGG and MPCP-GSIS to support the financial requirements for the compromise and incentives to acquire the 13.29-hectare property along U.N. in Barrio Upper Pasig, owned by MPCP-GSIS unit.

"The sale of the property is, in fact, a win-win-win," SM said.

On Nov. 2, 1975, MPCP entered into an LPA with Pinarez. This was followed by a supplemental Joint agreement signed in 1981 between MPCP and Pinarez consolidating the latter's sovereign interests amounting to P92.7 million payable in 20 years or by an annual outlay of P3.1 million (July 1981 to 2000).

SM said the issue on the sale of the MPCP property became the subject of legal battle starting in 1986 when MPCP unilaterally rescinded the agreement with Pinarez on the latter's sovereign invisible.

Based on the agreement between MPCP-GSIS and Pinarez, the total amount of the property for 20 years payment terms (from July 1981 to 2000) is at least P92.7 million.

Pinarez was then issued 50 percent by Subido and 50 percent by Independent Realty Corporation.

SM said Consolidated sought to acquire controlling ownership of Pinarez by purchasing Subido's and IRC's respective shareholdings with the approval of the PCGG.

Better deal for gov't

On April 26, 2010, the MPCP-GSIS and Pinarez executed a deed of absolute sale to implement the compromise agreement for a consideration of P3.1 billion.

"If the LPA would have been implemented in favor of Pinarez, it would give Pinarez the right to purchase the property at almost P93.7 million only as set in the agreement and would have been most disadvantageous to the government compared to the P3.1 billion including shares of PCGG and Subido's compensation/ share all parties involved (PCGG, GSIS, MPCP, Subido) were paid accordingly," SM said.

"The compromise among the parties executed (government through PCGG, Subido, MPCP and GSIS) was done to ensure each of the parties of amicable and reasonable recovery in allowing titles can be take its natural course would involve time lost and the property remaining idle," SM added.

hire now www.jobmarketonline.com

No surgery, no chemotherapy, eradicating cancer cells with a little bit of light?
The "light" of the Photodynamic therapy is a laser, it will act as a scalpel to completely "remove" the tumor.

No need for surgery, no need for chemotherapy, all that is needed is a little bit of "light" to destroy malignant tissues in the body. A little bit of light can smithereen cancer cells? Sounds amazing, actually the "light" of the Photodynamic therapy is a laser. The laser will remove the tumor.

Mr. Xiaobin, a 31 year old Hong Kong Chinese felt a pinching feeling in his left hand, headaches, twitching of limbs, these discomforts are synonymous so she got a CT examination on the upper right temporal gibbus of the head. The examinations showed occurrences of gliomas, she went for surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy. Finally, Mr. Xiaobin chose the treatment at Guangzhou Modern Cancer Hospital.

The CT scan showed that there is a large gliomas in the upper right temporal portion of the head. The size of the tumors is large, the location is deep in the central cortex and the brain area, there is a significant pressure on the important nerves. After the plant nerves cardio- causing Mr. Xiaobin to have visual acuity therefore physical activity became an obstacle. With a life long control brain tumors like this, a conventional surgery is risky, and it will not completely remove the tumors, and there is easy occurrences of tumor.

Professor Peng Xiaochi carefully studied the conditions of Mr. Xiaobin, and decided to adopt the latest treatment for brain tumors "removal of local tumor and Photodynamic Therapy", this is the removal of the brain tumors within the out of focus, and completely killing the residual tumor cells by adjuvant therapy.

Before the operation, the experts will first intravenously injure her with photosensitizer. After the injection the Photosensitizer will flow through the blood to reach the tumor tissue. The Photosensitizer will stick to the tumor cells, one lively gathering, keeping the tumor focus. Then a certain wavelength of laser radiation will be applied to the tumor tissue, the photosensitizer will be activated by photochemical reaction, damaging the targeted cancer cells, therefore destroying the tumor tissue. Soon after the patient is awaken, normal physical activities will return.

According to experts, Photodynamic Therapy is the ideal treatment for malignant tissues that was developed in recent years. Photodynamic Therapy has little side effects, and there is little damage on hematopoietic system and immune system. This provides more cost-effective treatment for cancer patients.

FREE Medical Consultations
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

广州现代肿瘤医院
Guangzhou Modern Cancer Hospital

Manila Office Medical Affairs Depart: Add: Unit 1108, Broadview Tower, Mayflower St. cor. Wanangbayan St., Sta. Cruz, Manila • E-mail: thaimedicalservices@gmail.com • Web: http://www.cancercure.com

Tel. Nos.: (02) 3531554 • 0915 4642818 • 0922 8083333

Ortegas want De Lima back on case

By Nikko Dizon

DISAPPOINTED over the dropping by state prosecutors of murder charges against former Maguindanao governor Zaldy Ampatuan, the widow of slain broadcaster and environmentalist Gerry Ortega yesterday appealed to Justice Secretary Leila de Lima to no longer inhibit herself from case.

The media-community in Palawan, in a protest rally on Tuesday condemning the Department of Justice (DOJ) decision, had also challenged de Lima to step into the case.

De Lima had inhibited herself from the case because she used to be the election lawyer of the former governor, whom the Ortega family suspects masterminded the killing of the journalist five months ago.

"She should show that she can decide fairly. That she is really fair because who would do that job? She was given a responsibility and she should be ready to take that responsibility. It will define her as a person," Betty Ortega told the Inquirer by phone.

Ortega said her lawyers were still analyzing whether or not to file a motion for reconsideration of the ruling of a Justice Department panel of prosecutors that dismissed the murder complaint they had filed.

In a resolution dated June 8, the DOJ panel said the evidence and testimonies of witnesses presented by the prosecution were "insufficient to establish probable cause against" Reyes, former Maguindanao Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan, former Mamasapano Gov. Jose Carmen, former Datumay provincial administrator Bureaus Anwaralisa, Mayor Mario Reyes of Datu Paglas, and Reyes' former aides Antonio Bagtalado and Percival Lindao.

But the panel approved the filing of a criminal case against Reyes' former security aide Rodolfo "Rudy" Edrad Jr., Armando Mali, Dennis Ampatuan and Arvin Insindo.

The justice secretary ultimately rules on motions for reconsideration filed by parties who are unhappy with the dismissal of the state prosecutors.

"I am now seriously considering that challenge," de Lima said in a text message to the Inquirer when sought for comment.

"I thought that my exercise of discretion through inhibition was an act of fairness and something that would be appreciated by the Ortegas. If I didn't inhibit and the outcome of the preliminary investigation was, as it turned out, the dismissal of the complaint, that would have been a big issue thrown at me. So I hope they understand that," de Lima said.

But Ortega said it was "okay" even if de Lima, former head of the Commission on Human Rights, was the former lawyer of Reyes.

"If you believe in the truth, it doesn't matter whatever relations you have had with a person, you will stick to the truth," Ortega said.

On Monday Ortega and activist priest Robert Reyes will lead a "mini-hot justice" for the slain journalist from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines office in Intramuros to the Justice Department on Padre Faura Street in Manila.

Fr. Reyes told the Inquirer in a separate interview that the Ortegas and their supporters were now "shifting the fight to public opinion and ethics."

In the protest rally held on Tuesday in Puerto Princesa City, over 200 journalists and their supporters slammed the "prejudgment and biased resolution" that cleared Reyes.

Reyes had been the subject of Ortega's editorials, particularly over the handling of the revenues from Palawan's share of natural gas from Malampaya and logging and mining operations.

AQUINO

NBI braces for arrival of Michael Ray Aquino

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) is expected to tighten security for former Sgt. Michael Ray Aquino when he is extradited to the country due to possible threats in his life.

NBI Deputy Director for Intelligence Services and lawyer Ifan Lanala said he has been pinpointed possible threats against Aquino coming from at least three sources, including the mastermind behind the 2000 killing of Salvador Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito, but stressed that the reports are raw and are still for validation.

"This is part of the normal way of life for an activist or even a retired police official," Lanala explained, but said the NBI does not want to take chances.

He added that Aquino's position in the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) as intelligence chief would naturally make him a target for retaliation by huge syndicates affected by the police unit's operations in the past.

Lanala said that based on raw information, three groups would possibly pose threats against Aquino: remnants of a kidnap-for-ransom group that was neutralized by the PAOCTF; remnants of a transnational drug syndicate, the leaders of which were killed in an encounter with the police unit; and the mastermind in the Dacer-Corbito murders.

The NBI deputy director explained that the two first groups would naturally want to exact revenge for their fallen comrades. As for the third group, "Mr. Aquino is considered a key to identifying the mastermind behind the killing. The mastermind might try to silence him," Lanala told the Inquirer.

He said the NBI had shared the raw information with its counterparts in the Philippine National Police, particularly the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, the Intelligence Group, as well as the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines for validation.

'There's no one like Jose Rizal'

FOR ABOUT half of all adult Filipinos, no one comes close to national hero Dr. Jose Rizal, according to a survey released yesterday by Pulse Asia Inc.

Pulse Asia's 'Dat ng Bayan survey, conducted from May 20 to June 4, found that one in every two respondents (52.3 percent) believed Rizal, who marked his 150th birth anniversary last Sunday, was incomparable.

Personal or name recognition was overwhelming for Rizal, 30.6 percent mentioned President Benigno Aquino's father, former Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., as comparable to Rizal.

If the second and third were former presidents Ferdinand Marcos (5.4 percent) and fighting diseases and Batangueno Rep. Manny Pacquiao (4.8 percent).

Four percent named the President's mother, former president Corazon Aquino, while 3 percent also named President Aquino himself; after Andres Bonifacio (3.1 percent).

Mentioned but garnering less than nine percent of the responses were former presidents Joseph Estrada and Ramon Magsaysay, Vice President Jejomar Binay, Sen. Francis Escudero and Spiritualo Melencio.

"The views that Dr. Jose Rizal is incomparable is shared by near to small majorities across geographic areas (45.3 percent in the Visayas to 63.1 in Metro Manila) and socio-economic classes (48.1 percent in Class D to 69.5 percent in Class ABC)," Pulse Asia noted in a press release.

To the question, "To your knowledge, who is the national hero of the Philippines?" 61.9 percent answered Rizal, while 2.8 percent answered Pacquiao. Others mentioned were Bonifacio (0.9 percent), Ninoy Aquino Jr. (1.7 percent), President Aquino (1.5 percent), Cory Aquino (1 percent) and Emilio Aguinaldo (1 percent).

The survey covered 1,200 adults aged 18 and above. It had an error margin of plus-or-minus 3 percentage points.

Inquirer Research

Twisters rip roofs, uproot trees in QC

From page A1

secretary, the Science Garden in Quezon City, from 8 a.m. on Thursday to 8 a.m. yesterday.

"The rainfall was much more compared to the normal rainfall every June in Quezon City which is 333 mm every month, or 10 mm per day to one day we had 247.3 mm," Acedolisen said.

From 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. alone, 44 mm of rain was measured at the Science Garden, twice the hourly rainfall rate considered heavy (7.5 mm).

Acedolisen said the heavy rains were blown Ghanda, south of Luzon and western Visayas in the last few days were brought by the southwest monsoon, which Pagasa had been warning about since Tuesday.

Moving faster away

Pabuna assumed its strength as it moved faster on its way out of the Philippines, Pagasa said in a 5 p.m. update yesterday.

The storm moved 23 kilometers per hour north-northwest, faster than its 19-kph speed yesterday morning, as it spun toward Japan. It is expected to be some 710 km north-northwest of Basco, Batanes, by tomorrow afternoon.

Storm Signal No. 1 remained hoisted over the Calayan, Babuyan and Batanes island groups.

The weather is expected to improve across the country by tomorrow, when Pabuna would have moved out of the Philippine area of responsibility, Acedolisen said.

But another low-pressure area (LPA) is brewing over east of Luzon and over the Pacific Ocean, and is likely to merge with Pabuna due to its strong pull on to track northward, Acedolisen said.

Pabuna swallowed a similar weather system over the Pacific Ocean on Wednesday.

"We expect that Pabuna will become a typhoon on its way out. Pabuna is strong, so nothing will happen to the LPA but dissolve and be absorbed by Pabuna," Acedolisen said.

Dandling's house

One of the houses in Quezon City that sustained the biggest damage from the twister is that owned by Dandling Cojuangco, according to Chino Diaz Diego, the head of Quezon City's Department of Public Safety and Order.

The twister ripped off the roofs of 40 houses including Cojuangco's in a wealthy area in New Manila, as well as a number of trees, knocking out Kamias before it disappeared, said San Diego, a retired chief superintendent.

San Diego said the families rendered homeless were sent home to stay in the mansions owned by their relatives.

In Kamuning, Carlo Sarmiento described the twister as "a huge dark grey cloud that toppled, ripped and buried things that got in its way."

Sarmiento told the business that she watched the vortex from the covered entrance of the Quezon City Jail as shanty past noon.

"We were standing outside the jail and waiting for our turn to go inside and visit my husband when we heard a howling sound," she said. "When I turned to look, I saw the circling strong wind and saw a huge tree uprooted and a roof of a house were off and were flying toward Edsa."

Sarmiento said the onslaughts lasted for barely one minute, but I understood a lasted for only about two minutes."

Cut in half

A satellite office of the city welfare office beside Bernardo Park and in front of the city jail was cut in half when the typhoon-ed tree fell on one of its rooms.

"I heard a loud thud from above me, and when I looked up, I saw the ceiling and the fluorescent light falling down on me. I crawled on the floor, then stood up, kicked the door and left the room as fast as I could," Edielyn de Castro said.

A concrete wall inside the Kamuning police station collapsed damaging a number of parked vehicles.

Traffic in front of the station was halted because of the big tree that fell in the middle of the southbound lane of Edsa. Fortunately no vehicle was passing when the twister toppled the tree, a police officer said.

Swirling winds in Iloilo

About an hour later at 1:30 p.m., strong swirling winds destroyed 19 houses and damaged 20 others in Barangay Guimbal, Barotac Viejo, Iloilo.

No one was injured, Barotac Viejo Mayor Gennaro Biron said in a phone interview with the business in Iloilo City.

Biron said most of the destroyed and damaged houses were empty because the children were in school and their parents were at work.

The homeless families stayed with their relatives or in nearby schools. The municipal government has provided them food and other assistance.

Water everywhere

Rains continued inundating wide swaths of Luzon yesterday affecting almost 200,000 people in Metro Manila, Ilocos, and Central and Southern Luzon, and destroying P2 million in crops and property, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said.

NDRRMC executive director Benito Ramos said in Metro Manila had received spilling excess water. He called for the evacuation of residents along the Tullahan River, particularly in Quezon City, and the other cities of Malabon, Caloocan and Valenzuela.

Other dams were approaching or were at critical levels, the NDRRMC said.

Ipo Dam was at 100.6 meters (critical level: 100.80), Angat Dam, at 198.72 m (critical level: 210), and Caliraya Dam at 286.87 m, barely below the critical level of 288.

The water level of Marikina River was recorded at 16.80 m, past the critical level of 15, prompting the evacuation of some 600 families in Marikina. San Juan River was also near past 11 m, the critical level.

One gate was opened at Ambuklao Dam to release supply, after the water level reached 751.16 m, just slightly below the critical level of 752. Two gates were opened at Binga Dam where the level reached 565.45 m (critical level: 575).

The NDRRMC said 33,439 families in 116 barangays, five provinces and four regions had been affected by floods. On the wet second with fewer than 2,000 affected persons, the NDRRMC figures showed.

Floods were reported in Meycauayan City and the towns of Marilao and Obando, as well as floods in the City of San Fernando and eight towns in Pampanga.

15 missing

Those in Southern Luzon continued their search for 15 persons who were missing due to the first weather.

Disaster authorities said the missing included 10 fishermen in Catanduanes, three fishermen in Camarines Norte, a woman in Albay, and a 3-year-old girl believed to have drowned in Laguna.

The missing fishermen in Catanduanes were included a barangay councilman, Joselito delos Santos, and his companion Jose Bernales Jr., and Jessie Mendoza, all of Barangay Pinagpipilan in Calaguas Islands, said municipal councilor Ric Palacio of Bicacay town.

In a report to Gov. Edgardo Tallado, Palacio said the three men were out to do sea on June 23 and had not been heard from since.

Members of the police, Army and Coast Guard participated to scour the waters off the towns of Vinzo, Boro and San Miguel in Catanduanes, but the 18 other fishermen, who were reported missing on Wednesday morning, said Nieva San Jose, senior officer of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

One of the two search teams scoured empty-handed yesterday afternoon, said Reynaldo Reginaldo, acting administrator of the Red Cross in the province.

The fishermen, all from Virac and Baras, were identified as Antonio Avila Badon, Nestor Manalaac, Vicente Tapit, Pedro Bellingal, Jason Bellingal, Prospero Tabios, Eugenio Tabios, Rolando Tabios, Dodoven Sta. Ana and Jessie Rodriguez.

Local disaster officials also continued the search for Rosa Bolgar, 54, of Barangay Binag, Ligao City in Albay, who was swept away by raging waters.

Bolgar and her husband were crossing a river on the way to the city market at about 3 a.m. on Thursday. The husband was able to save himself.

In Laguna, rescuers have yet to find 5-year-old Angelo on 8, Sonnie of Golden City Subdivision, Sta. Rosa, who was believed to have drowned, said Vicky Bonalla, public information officer of the Calabarzon Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

Canceled flights

A total of 20 domestic flights to various areas were canceled because of the bad weather.

As for 13 a.m. yesterday, most of those canceled were Cebu Pacific flights from Manila to Caticlan and back.

The Manila International Airport Authority's Media Affairs Division said the other flights were to Davao and Cagayan. Of the affected flights, two were Seair flights bound for Davao.

In an advisory Philippine Airlines said no domestic or international flights was canceled yesterday.

"PAL operations remain normal with some flights experiencing minor delays due to prevailing weather conditions at airports in Manila and provincial stations," the advisory read.

There were, however, slight delays in 17 international and 20 domestic flights, PAL said.

On Thursday, two PAL flights from Manila to Los Angeles had back were canceled, as well as a PAL flight from Manila to Tacloban and back.

"The cancellations were due to Manila's heavy rain, widespread flooding and a massive traffic jam that prevented passengers and airline crew ... from arriving on time," the advisory read. With reports from Nancy C. Carvajal, Ed Rio and Jaclie M. Asuncion in Manila; Carmela Reyes-Rodriguez and Timothy Deyto in Legazpi; Central Luzon, Desiree Caluza, Inquirer North-ern Luzon; Nestor J. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas; Rhae Angadilla, Jonas Cabilo Saleta, Pernalo Diaconia, Marvish Rivera and Kimberly Pesayo, Inquirer Southern Luzon

STORM SHELTER A covered basketball court becomes a temporary home to some 100 families who fled their homes in Marikina City as floodwaters rise following continuous heavy rains. MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

MARINE PARK A man wades past a parking lot now submerged in waist-deep floodwaters in Marikina City. MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

The funny face of disaster risk reduction management council

From page A1

been giving/Penoided Aquino headaches?"

Alonzo spoke on the dose; Ramos shot back: "Probably because every time we meet, I bring him disaster."

Mr. Aquino said the other day he never looks forward to meeting with three unnamed Cabinet members because they always bring him badnews.)

Excellent rapport

It is this quick-wit and banter that has made the 60-year-old retired Army major general a darling of Benigno Aquino.

Ramos has developed such an excellent rapport with the people he works with, including journalists, that jokes are standard conversation starters with him.

Once, when the dusky Ramos did a live interview in a television, he asked for a white handkerchief, "so I can be seen on camera."

When asked to underwater

Graciano Yumul, the acting chief of the weather bureau, greeted him with, "Sir, what are we facing?". Ramos quipped: "I just wanted to see you."

According to Ramos, the son of a comedian and a housewife from makeshift province, he is just a naturally happy person. "This is my real personality. I am the type who can deal with anyone," he said in Filipino.

In his line of work, he said it was particularly important to have a good working relationship with the media.

"If I don't get good there, who will believe me? Who will I convince the DND (Department of National Defense) to send me an airplane to drop off food from the DSWD (Department of Social Welfare and Development)?" he said.

At an interagency conference yesterday on developments of Tropical Storm "Falcon," he reminded officials of the necessity of reaching the public through the media: "If the media don't know about what you did, it's as though you did nothing."

Media favorite

Ramos' immediate boss, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, the NDRRMC chair, has described Ramos as a jackpot/a big media "media favorite."

Reporters covering the NDRRMC have found Ramos' plain talk, easygoing manner and unfailing accessibility in times of typhoons and other disasters a refreshing change.

Under Ramos, the NDRRMC Operations Center is no longer off limits for media briefings, during which the reasonably cooperative media also get to ask questions from Ramos.

When the NDRRMC website was hacked and hoaxed, he said that should be called the culprit: "I will not violate human rights."

The culprit was never caught and a few days later, Ramos told reporters that his comment, made half in jest, earned him a reprimand.

When several fishermen were reported missing during a typhoon, Ramos said from the point of view of search planes, the fishermen are "like tiny dots/ants" at sea.

Fearing that the same fishermen still go out to sea in bad weather, Ramos said they could find less precarious jobs during such times. "Find a sideline as a painter," he suggested.

Ramos said Tropical Storm "Egay" did some good to the parched farmlands in the region of Cagayan Valley. He happily pointed out that Egay watered his cornfields in Tuguegarao.

He described Tropical Storm "Falcon" as exhibiting "good behavior" because it did not directly hit Central Luzon and Metro Manila.

Not of the PMA

Ramos fought in Mindanao in the 1970s, where he spent 20 of his active years. He said he was "not of the PMA (Philippine Military Academy), just a humble reserve officer."

A political science graduate of Saint Ferdinand College in Baguio, he had planned on going on to law studies. "But I couldn't continue when my father passed away," he said.

He became a high school teacher, teaching social science at the Tarlac Academy in Isabela. But he said he did not enjoy the job.

"I wanted action. Back then, there was already an outbreak of hostilities in Mindanao. I wanted to join the fighting," said Ramos.

He bears the scars from bullet wounds in his right biceps and near the hips. "I was just lucky I didn't get hit in vital areas," he said.

It was in Mindanao where he met and married his wife Rosemarie, who is from Sharriff Aguak in Maguindanao. They have two grown sons, both trained Rangers. The family lives in Cagayan Valley.

Friend of Gazmin

Ramos said he became friends with Gazmin while serving in the Army.

"He was 1st Lieutenant. I was 2nd Lieutenant. We spent a long time together. I don't know why he took me, but when he asked, 'Baby ka ba?,' I joined him," he said.

Ramos, whose last assignment was as commander of the army's special operations command, saw the most intense fighting that claimed the lives of some of his close friends.

But the harsh experiences did not dampen his natural "positiveness," he said.

"You need to have positive thinking even through the worst conditions. You have to motivate yourself. That's where EQ, or emotional quotient, comes in," he said.

But his acknowledged that there are occasions when joking is inappropriate, given the nature of his work. Reports of storms, landslides and other disasters are no joking matter with him. "I get affected. I get sad," he said.

He said he was happy that there has been so far, "zero casualties" because of Falcon.

"I can sleep well tonight," he said.

US ready to arm, defend PH

From page A1

weeks, with the Philippines and Vietnam alarmed at what they say are increasingly aggressive moves by China in the disputed waters.

Several Southeast Asian nations have been seeking closer relationships with the United States, which since last year has described freedom of navigation in the strategic and resource-rich sea.

US concerned

Clinton said the two nations were working "to determine what are the additional assets that the Philippines needs and how we can best provide it here."

She said Del Rosario would meet Defense Secretary Robert Gates and other Pentagon officials.

"We are concerned that recent incidents in the South China Sea could lead to miscalculation and stability," Clinton told reporters, urging "all sides to exercise self-restraint."

Stronger ally

Del Rosario said the Philippines sees a small country has won "prepared to do what is necessary to stand up to any aggressive action in our backyard."

The Philippines has announced the deployment to the disputed waters of two Navy flagship, the Rajah Humabon. One of the world's oldest warships, the Rajah Humabon was a former US Navy frigate that served during World War II.

The Philippines has historically been considered a US ally, but Del Rosario said President Aquino had allocated P11 billion ($252 million) to upgrade the Navy.

Ahead of his talks with Clinton, Del Rosario said the Philippines was asking the United States for "an open-ended lease so that we can look at freely new equipment and be able to get our hands on that quickly."

"We need to have the resources to be able to stand and defend ourselves and to the extent that we can do that, we become a stronger ally for you," Del Rosario said at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

'What is ours is ours'

The United States has been providing military aid to the Philippines primarily to fight Islamic militants in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Del Rosario said the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf had largely been defeated, estimating that only around 200 guerrillas remained.

"The Philippines' relative success in counter-insurgency coupled with pressures in the regional environment compel a reorientation of focus and resources," he said.

Del Rosario stressed the need for peace in the Western Philippine Sea by others for the economic development of the area.

He added: "There is a need to segregate the non-disputed areas from the disputed areas. What is ours is ours, and what is disputed can be shared."

Del Rosario said he also discussed with Clinton his country's proposal for "a rules-based regime in accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea."

'Playing with fire'

China has said it will not accept the use of force but also warned the United States to stay out of territorial spats. It says the disputes should be resolved through bilateral negotiations.

"I believe some countries now are playing with fire. And I hope the US won't be burned by this fire," China's Vice Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai said.

Clinton would not comment specifically on whether the United States would provide military assistance in the event of an attack on Philippine forces by China now the disputed Spratly Islands.

"I don't want to discuss hypothetical events but I want to underscore our commitment to the defense of the Philippines," Clinton said.

The Philippines says China has made more intrusions in Manila-claimed waters since Feb. 25 and that those intrusions are becoming "more aggressive and more frequent." Vietnam has also tested diplomatic ties with China over Beijing's claims.

The remote islands are also claimed by Brunei, Malaysia and Taiwan.

40th anniversary

"We are troubled by recent incidents in the South China Sea that have increased tension and raised concerns about peace and security in the region," Clinton said.

She said ultimately the territorial disputes "need to be resolved by the claimants, but the US was willing to support a collaborative, diplomatic process by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), which has attempted to foster a code of conduct with China.

She clarified that "we don't, as the US, take a position on competing sovereignty claims over island features."

Clinton noted that this year the US and the Philippines were celebrating the 60th anniversary of their mutual defense pact.

"It is not reflective of the 60th anniversary of this defense relationship, we are looking forward to how we can elevate it and move ahead for this national alliance," she said.

US-Philippine exercises

Clinton disclosed that Washington was talking with Manila about "what the US needs over because it is up to them to decide how to deploy forces and what [our biggest concerns are."

"But we certainly wish to do what we can to support the Philippines as their desire for external support for maritime defense and the other issues that ... Del Rosario is discussing in other meetings, as well," she said.

Speaking to counter China's rise and rapid military buildup, the US has stepped up its engagement with Southeast Asian nations in the past two years. It is scheduled to hold naval training exercises with the Philippines starting June 28.

The Philippines, whose poorly equipped forces are no match for China's powerful military, has on his own to diplomatic protests against China's alleged intrusions. Del Rosario and Defense Secretary Gazmin's responses to its protests had been "unacceptable" and he was concerned about the diplomatic events would be heading.

Meeting with McCain

In 1998, clashes over the Spratlys involving China and Vietnam killed more than 70 Vietnamese soldiers.

Early this week, Del Rosario met with Republican Sen. John McCain and they agreed "a multilateral approach" was vital in resolving differences over the Spratlys.

McCain has urged Washington to help the Asean nations to deploy an early warning system in the vast [illegible] waters.

SIDE BY SIDE Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario take the media at the State Department in Washington on Thursday. Del Rosario is also scheduled to meet with Defense Secretary Robert Gates and other Pentagon officials to talk about the Philippine military's needs. AFP

Muntinlupa flood-free: landmark plastics ban cited

By Mike Navallo

WITH the anniversary of the torrential rains that began on Thursday, certain areas in Muntinlupa City could have been just watch-or-dismiss in the national government's flood mitigation.

But to Muntinlupa Mayor Aldrin San Pedro's surprise, the anticipated flooding in some parts of the city did not happen, with rainwater flowing freely through canals and waterways and making their way to Laguna de Bay.

San Pedro cited Muntinlupa's landmark ban on plastics and polystyrene containers, which was implemented early this year, as among the factors that kept the city free from flooding.

"When my personnel did the cleanup in the past weeks, there was less trash along waterways," he said in an interview San Pedro acknowledged that the ban was not the ultimate solution to the flooding problem, but pointed out that it eased the local government's headaches in ensuring that rainwater would have the city's streets as soon as possible.

He identified three areas in Muntinlupa's Metrobel Road that he and other officials had anticipated to be flooded—the just area City Hall, the part near Bonanza Putatan, and the part near the Tapia plant in Barangay Tunasan.

Those portions of the road are among the low areas on the thoroughfare that are like catch basin, and flood-waters there can rise up to the knee on the average, he said.

San Pedro also assumed that the construction development in these areas could also be a factor in the flooding situation. But overall, he said, the city government minimized the effect of the intermittent rains by making sure the areas were drained immediately.

"We could still have gotten through with closure in the city had not the Department of Education suspended the classes in Metro Manila on Friday," he said.

China: Clinton's Philippines comments groundless

BEIJING—The head of a Chinese government think tank says China has no intention of invading the Philippines in response to a US pledge to help defend Manila's interests amid rising tensions in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Thursday Washington was committed to the Philippines' defense following a series of Chinese intrusions in disputed waters.

The president of the China Institute of International Studies, Ou Xinyu, said Friday Clinton's comments were based on a "totally groundless" premise that China would invade the Philippines.

"We have never sent troops to invade other countries and we have never used force against other countries," Ou told a media briefing. AP

President still sore at Cotabato City mayor

SINGAL, Bulacan—Despite the rains hampered by Tropical Storm "Falcon," President Aquino yesterday visited the towns where the Angat Dam is located, to supervise the launching of the Central Bulacan Center for Social Innovations (CBSCI) in Barangay Encanto. [Story on Page A1.]

Mr. Aquino said he braved the rains because he found it "rewarding" to observe GK's humanitarian thrust, as an entrepreneurial training and demonstration facility that was started last year.

He said he wanted a respite from news communication crisis hailing Team's communists made this week by Cotabato City Mayor Japal Guiani Jr. about his trip there on June 13.

Guiani had said that the President failed to provide concrete solutions to Cotabato's perennial flooding problems.

"Pagpalain ng Aang ayos ng Diyos (God bless him)," said Mr. Aquino, who arrived at 9:30 a.m. clad in a black jacket.

But he offered some reasons about the delay in the Cotabato City Angat Dam (I pray that the dam will be ready).

The rains had raised the water levels of Angat to 195.99 meters above sea level (masl), still below its spilling level of 210.00 masl.

But operators of Ipo Dam, which is located below Angat, opened its floodgates on Thursday night. The dam has been releasing 135 cubic meters of water per second until Friday morning because the water elevation had almost breached the spilling level of 101.00 masl.

Felicisima Mojica, chair of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, said the releases in towns would not affect residents living near the river along Angat, Carmella Reyes-Estrope, Inquirer Central Luzon

GMA blasts Noy: Nobody home; lists danger signs for economy

From page A1

back with a riposte saying that lawyer was "upset that the time for her having abuse the rules and beyond accountability is finally over."

"We regret that instead of learning on her countrymen's needs at this time, she (Arroyo) is instead trying to beg the headlines in a pathetic bid to escape accountability for her past deeds," said deputy spokesperson Abigail Valte in a statement.

Mr. Aquino, who ran for President on an anti-Arroyo platform, has been roughly assailed in his drive to bring his successor, her family and her allies to justice for alleged corruption.

Valte said she had no idea what Arroyo's feuds was for saying there were danger signs in the economy.

"Whatever economic policies that we have in place, they are clearly working," as seen from the ratings upgrade from the Moody's and Fitch rating agencies, she said. "Our budget deficit and the manageable budget deficit, the channel is a phone interview

Aquino's shortcomings

Arroyo insisted that "there may be danger lurking ahead for our economy" because of the kind of leadership displayed by her successor, which she said sets a subsistent bar characterized as "nobody home."

"Those shortcomings were seen during the hostage taking at the Luneta and several other crises that followed," she said.

Arroyo claimed the economy had grown in the first year of the Aquino administration only because of the unpopular reforms that she instituted, particularly the new taxes she imposed.

"I left an economy that no longer had limits and banks. I left an economy that no longer had and I started with reforms in fiscal sustainability. I had to raise taxes even if it made me unpopular and it doomed me to unpopularity for the rest of my term. But I had to do that because we needed funds for health, job creation and infrastructure, and I had to make it

EX-PRESIDENT ARROYO: There's need to raise decisive action over what programs to continue. INQUIRER FILE PHOTO

reserves," she said.

"So today a year later, the economy is still benefiting from unsustainable growth but this does not mean that there are no danger signs," she said.

Danger signs

She proceeded to list down these danger signs—the inflation rate, still rated powers, the percentage of people going hungry, the country's score in the corruption index had all risen and foreign investments are only half what they were a year ago.

"These are the danger signs. I left an economy with sustainable growth but in the long run, that can become the problem. Because it prevents the spending goes down and the PPP (public-private partnership program) does not come in to replace it. In good time, that will contribute to the decline (out of the economy)" said Arroyo.

The PPP, unveiled last November, is the Aquino administration's landmark policy initiative, designed to enlist private-sector and foreign investor participation in an ambitious infrastructure-building program to put in place a "world-class" infrastructure system for the country. It rides on 14 rail, road and airport projects with a combined $23.48 billion but a single PPP project has been approved by the new administration.

In the past week, Mr. Aquino has canceled $2 billion worth of foreign-funded infrastructure projects, claiming them were tainted with graft and overpriced and financially deficient. The other day he said the government had saved PP billion from 19 public works projects started in the previous administration that had been canceled.

Arroyo said Mr. Aquino has to make decisive actions soon. "There is a need to decide what programs should be continued and what should be dropped but work has to be done," said the former President who won praise and some hisses in the press conference when she went to her Lubao, Pampanga, hometown.

Ploy to deflect attention

Referring to moves by Mr. Aquino to prosecute her for the corruption scandals that marred her administration, Arroyo said: "I've said before, these allegations are unfounded and what I can say is that we have a Constitution, we have laws that have to be followed, and there are courts to enforce them."

Valte said the former President's caustic tenderness may "a ploy to deflect attention from her refusing to submit to proper proceedings for ascertaining accountability."

She may have been referring to Arroyo's failure to show up at Department hearings on allegations that Lawyer Francis Chavez filed against her for allegedly illegally disbursing P366 million of Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration funds to the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation.

Despite her glaring absences from proceedings inquiring into her culpability and accountability as ex-President, she has found time to try to obtain media mileage at a time that calls for the attention of media, the public and the government on the current weather disturbance," the statement said. With a report from Norman Bordadora

'For farmers' benefit,' but not a share in his name

From page A1

ents, including properties and Swiss bank accounts, so far recovered by the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) from Marcos and his cronies.

When the portfolio was acquired, Cojuangco was president of the United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB), a government facility set up during the reign Arroyo to provide a "permanent solution" to the credit problems of farmers.

Critics described the arrangement as unusual; public funds were normally administered in a bank owned and managed by the government.

Reform activists say true farmers got loans from UCPB, which used the money for vast, risk investments schemes authorized by the government and administered by the customers of a functioning democracy.

One of the first major investments was the disastrous multibillion coconut replanting program using the so-called Mahogany Seedling Industry Project, projected in Cojuangco's Bagumbayan Farm in Palawan province. The Marcos dictator embraced as the country's farmlands.

Only Cojuangco benefited from the deal, critics said.

The Inquirer reported in early 1986 the allegedly clandestine acquisition of the San Miguel shares through a complicated arrangement using layers upon layers of corporate structures worthy of a Ludlum thriller.

Product of street smarts

In fact, it was conjured by a simple, logical mind. Utah-born, it is how the deal was described by a lawyer familiar with the transaction.

"There was all this money lying around in the bank," he said. "Why not invest in instead of lending it at a measly rate? That was the logic of the street, but it was remarkably logical."

By mid-in 1986 after the area fled abroad the levy during the martial law years netted P8.7 billion, representing still-valid reported transactions. Thousands of the collections ran to high as P50 billion, but many cases in the boondocks, buyers of coups did not issue receipts and numbers pocketed the proceeds. In 1991, a presidential decree put the number of coconut farmers at 3 million.

Godfather of basketball

All told, 51 percent of SMC shares were acquired by Cojuangco, whose dings save turned into a hotel a basketball game he was rewarding at Manila's Rizal Coliseum involving his alma mater, La Salle. He was named "godfather of basketball—the country's No. 1 sport.

But a single one of those SMC shares was in the name of a coconut farmer.

In the litigations that followed sequestration, 31 percent of the San Miguel shares, totaling 23,173,260 votes dong stand as CIIF shares, representing the 14 holding companies set up under the Coconut Industry Investment Fund. Your percent of the shares were later ordered sold to the government.

Another block of shares comprising 20 percent of the outstanding and remaining of 27,190,540 shares, which Cojuangco said was acquired from Enrique Zobel for P49 million paid out of his own devices, was lumped as SMC shares.

The late Zobel was a wealthy building billionaire who shared with Cojuangco a love for horses. He had been disenchanted with the way San Miguel was being run.

The following year, Zobel assembled a force of 12,000 Filipino workers under the direction of the renowned architect Leandro Locsin and built for his polo-playing buddy the million-dollar Hacienda Zobel, the world's biggest palace that rivaled Buckingham and Versailles.

Corporate labyrinth

Court records show that the CIIF shares were placed in the names of Bienvenido Pineda, Benito Dee, Primitivo Patlan Jr. and Silver Leaf Plantations Inc., that Jose C. Concepcion of the law firm Accra issued 99.6 percent of their outstanding shares, executed by shares documents entitled Declaration of Trust and Assignment of Subscription covered in favor of an unnamed assignee, that Concepcion and four other stockholders in the company had also executed blank transfer agreements in favor of Cojuangco.

These negotiable instruments were among those recovered from the vault found in Marcos' room the night he fled his besieged palace in the aftermath of the People Power Revolution in February 1986 and showed he exited the SMC stocks, or shared ownership with Cojuangco.

Prime facie public

In a ruling in 2001, the Supreme Court held in a case involving voting rights of UCPB shares that "taxpayer levy funds are not only diverted with public interest" but are "in fact, private funds public funds."

Farmers' lawyers hailed the landmark decision as a major step in the recovery of the ill-gotten SMC shares.

In 2004, the Sandiganbayan, in a partial summary judgment upholding the Supreme Court doctrine laid down three years earlier, ruled that the CIIF shares in San Miguel belonged to the government.

But in 2007, the high tribunal granted a petition by the Philippine Coconut Producers Federation, or Cocofed, the Marcos-designated investee of the coconut levy funds, for the conversion of the SMC common shares into preferred shares with no voting rights.

Cojuangco and his associates in the San Miguel board. By then, the sequestered CIIF shares had ballooned to a whopping 753,698,312, according to the Supreme Court resolution.

Since the conversion, San Miguel's publicly traded share has been battered around the P130 mark, under the value at which the Baltao-led PCGG allowed its conversion, making the CIIF holdings worth around P112 billion.

Court records show that at the time of sequestration, the Cojuangco block of SMC shares had grown to 108,040,548 that is now valued at 3984,569 billion.

The PCGG also is contemplating to acquire the 4 percent CIIF shares in SMC conserved into treasury notes, now estimated at P22 billion.

In all, the original investment in San Miguel by Cojuangco and his group of 14 holding companies has grown to P108 billion.

Interest alone on the SMC shares would be enough to fund Davillosed programs and help extricate from poverty a quarter of the Philippines population in the country's poorest provinces, lawmakers across the archipelago, reform activists say.

'Joke of the century'

In its April 12 ruling, the Supreme Court said the government had not failed to prove that Cojuangco illegally acquired his 20 percent of SMC shares, saying a deal was to arguments, among others, that as head of a state bank he had the fiduciary duty to invest the farmers' money and not for himself" but for the farmers alone.

Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales quotes Justice Douglas in her dissenting opinion: "It defense it is fiduciary ... They propose to use property that is not theirs to make fiction into positive rights to convert servants' fees and his estate second ... He cannot manipulate the affairs of his corporation to their detriment and in disregard of the standards of common decency."

Ignoring historical and factual evidence, the court also ruled that the government had failed to prove that Cojuangco was a Marcos crony.

Morales said the majority decision was "the biggest joke to hit the Supreme Court."

On Tuesday, the magistrates affirmed their April 12 ruling and dismissed a motion for reconsideration filed by lawyers of the late owner, Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

Farmers' lawyers have expressed apprehension that the latest ruling would adversely affect the CIIF-SMC shares whose beneficial heirs groups the holders of pending owners ship under the Sandiganbayan's ruling in 2004.

San Miguel gains

In the Supreme Court resolution on the sequestration of the CIIF shares from nominees to preferred the farmers have been set back. The current stock value had already doubled from the preferred issue price of P75 per share.

"Can you go back to the PCGG and tell them, look you made a mistake and now we are going to charge you with plunder," said once beatitude, executive director of the Coconut Industry Reform (CORE) Movement. "They can't do that because it was the Supreme Court that practically ordered them to do it."

San Miguel, where Cojuangco is a board chair and CEO, was on today's the winners in the deal.

It wasn't the first time under the previous Arroyo administration that the interest of the farmers had been undermined.

The Yaroc initiative

In 2003, the late Heidi Yaroc, then PCGG chair, wangled a deal that recovered P788 million from state companies set up using coconut levy funds. The amount represented redeemable shares in UCPB. The deal, which the young Yaroc and her aides had taken over from the Marcos-era officials wanted to use the money to help the coconut farmers.

Then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who was feeling pressure in the looming 2004 election, suggested that P1,000 be distributed to each farmer from the proceeds—Marie Antoinette dabbling starving farmers should eat cake. Yaroc stood the proposal.

"It was just like buying votes and it would end just there. There would be no sustainability" said Fuentes, who was then a UCPB director who was trying to sell to Arroyo a marketing scheme beneficial to the farmers.

Eventually, the money was used to set up cooperatives that would buy copra directly from the farmers and sell it to oil mills, eliminating middlemen. Some 250 cooperatives were set up, but only five survived as envisioned readers saw to it that they remained dormant.

The question being asked in the current televised sessions of the senate blue ribbon committee headed by Senator Juan Ponce Enrile: Where are the millions of pesos in coconut levy funds?

With a report from Norman Bordadora

British envoy lauds 'green' building rating system

By Julie M. Aurelio

A LOCAL GREEN building group which aims to serve as a benchmark for energy efficient, sustainable design that is also environment-friendly yet using zero plastics from British ambassador Stephen Lillie.

In a statement, Lillie congratulated the Philippine Green Building Council for developing Berde as the "Building for Ecologically Responsive Design Excellence" rating system.

Berde is a Filipino-designed rating system which aims to set standards for sustainable design in the midst of rising power costs in the country and a booming construction industry.

The Philippines has one of the highest power costs in Asia.

Lillie said the new rating system "has provided a common language for green building by formulating national standards for sustainable construction that are tailored to [its] conditions."

"We are delighted to have contributed to the development of Berde through our British experts who shared their knowledge and best practices in using the UK's Breeam system, which really pioneered green building rating systems," the envoy said.

Lillie was referring to the United Kingdom's Buildings Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (Breeam), a green building rating system which also aims to minimize the impact of building construction on the environment.

There are 12 buildings in Manila, Makati and Pampanga undergoing Berde certification, with 800 certified Berde professionals assisting in the task.

Lillie made the statement in a recent courtesy call to PHILGBC chair and president, Arch. Christopher de la Cruz.

Espousing green buildings and sustainable design aim to reduce the strain on energy resources and address the issues of high energy costs, waste and air pollution, and solid waste.

De la Cruz explained that an improved resource management leads to waste reduction, less landfills and cleaner water resources.

"Green building is recognized to have the highest potential in significantly reducing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions with proven and commercially available technologies. Dramatically reducing emissions by 30-50 percent is very possible without significantly increasing investment costs," he added.

It was through the British Embassy's help and Foreign Director Marie Townsend that valuable inputs on sustainable structures were shared during Berde's development phase.

idec
Split Type Wall Mounted Aircon
1hp-P16,500
FREE INSTALLATION

AIRCONS for less
Aiden by cosmos
Split Type Inverter
Window Type
1HP P16,888
1.5HP P24,888
2HP P30,888
2HP P37,888

ATTENTION: CLASSIFIED ADVERTISERS

Structural audit set for aging Naia 1 terminal

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE AIRPORT authority is undertaking a structural investigation of the 39-year-old Ninoy Aquino International Airport's (Naia) Terminal 1 which it expects to complete within the year.

A local engineering firm, Ove Arup, has been contracted to carry out the project, said Aristeo Ramirez, the senior assistant general manager of the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA).

He said the assessment of the Terminal 1's structural integrity and stability will also involve the international cargo terminal.

The probe will take at least six months, and its results will become the basis of the repairs or retrofitting of the old terminal, Ramirez said.

38 years in use

Jaime Bautista, the Terminal 1 manager, explained that the MIAA does not have its own structural engineers to carry out the job, hence the need to contract the services of an outside firm.

He said the probe will try to answer the question of how 1's safety after nearly 38 years of being in use.

Bautista said the experts will inspect the entire terminal for any cracks, deflections or unevenness of the floors, and the structural installation of its beams and columns.

He said the terminal is undergoing re-age in the form of cracks on the walls of some of the offices and hallways.

"Some of the parapet walls and plastering are giving way, we're addressing that as well," Bautista said.

The plan to conduct a structural probe of Terminal 1 has been in the works since late 2010, even before the recent accidents that merited an inspection from President Aquino himself, he said.

Repairs were the P8.4 million contract through regular bidding.

The results of the structural investigation are expected to come out by early next year.

As for other renovations, Bautista said the refurbishing of the old terminal's wet rooms is now ongoing.

New navigation system eyed for PH aerospace

By Julie M. Aurelio

COMING SOON to Philippine aerospace: a navigation system which will allow an aircraft to fly accurate paths without relying heavily on ground-based navigation aids.

The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) will develop a performance-based navigation (PBN) system in co-operation with the French Civil Aviation Authority and Quovadis, an Airbus company specializing in flight operations systems.

In a statement, CAAP Director General Jim Sydiongco said Quovadis had "the right expertise and experience" for the job.

"Its ability to use first priority the PBN concept matches perfectly with the needs of the country. The CAAP is fully committed to develop PBN in line with International Civil Aviation Organization recommendations, the official added.

According to the CAAP statement, the Required Navigation Performance allows an aircraft to fly accurately defined and contained trajectories without relying on ground-based navigation aids.

The navigation technology allows for optimal use of airspace by making approaches more additional and managed.

Economic-wise will "significantly improve safety but also reduce costs by shortening tracks."

Quovadis chief executive officer Fred French Bijon said the prospective PBN would bring all stakeholders together in ensuring fuel efficient, flexible and safe trajectories for aircraft.

NOW IS THE TIME TO GET CONNECTED.
Experience the superior connectivity of the all-new Fiesta, complete with iPod integration and voice-activated features such as Voice Dialing and Voice-Controlled Entertainment. With the exclusive dual-clutch PowerShift, the fun never ends. Life's better connected.
ALL-NEW FIESTA
TREND HATCHBACK
TREND SEDAN
Find us on Facebook
Ford
Feel the difference

INQUIRER

OPINION

The boss speaks

CLOSE YOUR eyes, and you could swear it was still Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo speaking.

Confirmation earlier this week about the results of the Social Weather Stations' fourth-wide Second Quarter report, which showed his net satisfaction rating dropping yet again, this time from plus 31 to March to plus 26 in June, President Aquino reacted with lines that sounded eerily familiar. "I'm really not concerned with popularity," he said. "It will go up and down. What's important for us at the end of the day is if we can face anybody and say we're working instead of just trying to look good."

EDITORIAL

Exactly, that never deserves to be mobilized now, but shed even, from the Palace's tasty political spin manual. Especially coming from someone who, to be frank about it, got his job not so much by way of years of reform-driven policy work or solid political acumen, as by the sudden wave of sympathetic popularity that accrued to his person after the death of his beloved mother. Then, when he needed it, he banked in that very public endearment. Now, it has merely become—to judge by the tone of his words—a rude, unwelcome reminder of the gulf between the promises with which he consumed the throne, and what he has failed to deliver to them so far.

Mr. Aquino is right, of course—government is more than mere populist acclamation. But how striking to see his presidency get itself so soon with the air of defensive nonchalance to demoted predecessor had so often employed when it came to reckoning with the public mood. Just two years ago, GMA spokesperson Gary Olivar dismissed his boss' dismal rating in the polls by saying, "These surveys are opinion-based and we don't think they represent a significant number of Filipinos. The President has been focused on just delivering basic social services for the poorest of the poor. That's more important for the President than her popularity."

Well, perhaps if they paid more attention to the pulse of the people, they'd know what all their so-called hard work was for?

Take a look at the latest survey Mr. Aquino's satisfaction rating posted steep declines among the poorer classes—Class D or 7 percent, to the rural areas by 8 percent. But his rating stayed or jumped by 9 percent among members of Class ABC. Which should tell you one thing: His signature policies—from conditional cash transfers to the Philippines' improved investment-credit rating indicators encouraging confidence in his stewardship resonate with the upper classes. But they remain hollow, for now, to the millions of poor Filipinos who have to wrestle with more pat-level issues.

There may, indeed, be a failure of communication here, as Malacañang has reasoned out. Corruption does contribute to and worsens poverty. It robs people of what's owed them by way of better roads, schools, hospitals, courts of law, public services. But, as Inquirer columnist Amando Doronila pointed out just last month, in the wake of SWS' first quarter report already showing Mr. Aquino suffering a plunge of 18 points in his net public satisfaction rating, "Mr. Aquino has to do more than put his presidency on the line on the single issue of fighting corruption... Examined more closely, this slogan is a simplistic reductionist argument. True corruption has debilitating economic costs, but it takes more than slogans to initiate programs that can create jobs, put money in the hands of the poor to help them cope with inflation."

The problem is, even as Mr. Aquino has yet to show concrete gains in the fight against poverty, even as gas prices, basic goods, transport fare and school tuition have spiked, impacting dearly on the day-to-day subsistence of much of the populace that had pinned their hopes on an Aquino presidency finally turning things around, on at least alleviating their unrelenting economic pressures, the President rests precisely the situation with seemingly careless, even callous actions that rub salt on the wounds, as it were.

He buys a Porsche, then expresses bafflement at the outrage it generates. He sticks by his compromised friends, conveniently forgetting he promised a no-nonsense administration after the rampant cronyism of the GMA years. And now, faced with bargaining public dissatisfaction over all that, he shrugs his shoulders and feigns dolmeyes.

What's that he said in his inaugural address again? "Kayo ang boss ko," pointing at the people. Well, his boss is telling him now he needs to shape up and do more to improve his performance. So he protests that he's working hard. Again—for what? And for whom?

Publisher **ISAGANI YUPANGCO**
Editor-in-Chief **LETTY JANE-LOPEZ-PRECIADO**
Managing Editor **JOSE NIC D. NOLASCO**
Associate Editor **ARMANDO S. DOROMAL**
Assistant Editor for Broadcasting **RICARDO G. CARVAJAL JR.**
Assistant Editor for Photography **RICHARD V. GUTIERREZ**
Executive Editor **ANTHONY T. DOMINGUEZ** • Chief Copy Desk Specialist **ROY R. PADRES**
Chief News Page Desk **RUBEN D. ACAMPADO**
Features Editor **FRANCISCO R. SUMBILLERA JR.**
Senior Desk Editor **JOSEPH SEBASTIAN CUA**
Editorial Consultant **AMANDO DORONILA**
Chief Photographer **ERNIE LI SUMAGAYSAY**
Art & Design Director **LAWRENCE G. VILLAMIN**

Board Chairman **HUMBERTO S. PUNO JR.**
President **ALEXANDRO PEDRO ANTONIO JR.**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **ERNESTO R. ESCUETA**
Vice President for Advertising **EDDIE W. OLANDO**
Vice President for Sales Development **CHARLES G. LIMPO**
Vice President for Finance **JOSELITO VILLANUEVA**
Ad Vice Circulation **MANUEL ANDREW S. CRUZADO III**
Corporate Affairs Manager **CORINNE R. KALAW-DIAZ**

Early tipping points

VIEWPOINT

Jessica L. Mercado

"THE GEST of three-foot tall hawksbills, dog-gying Rio Grande de Mindanao, now numbering," Jonathan Domingo of the Mindanao Gone to-ville. "Nine new-born people and 6th Infantry Battalion soldiers working alongside Moro Islamic Liberation Front regulars in some could flee to Bhutan by mid-or Brook-to-mid-week."

"We talk of wet," the village priest noted. "But a sometimes-dream seemed so. 'We'll need this sorry-B more years against hunters of Ivy-wheels from Lupon and Mindy."

Welcome to the Internet Club.

The Philippines joined other plants plagued by "water blue" or underwater-marine Lake Victoria in East Africa, Ecuador-San Francisco in Bella, Louisiana-Mississippi and Papua New Guinea.

Fire cures and ill-mouse epidemics in Mindanao were incited by the rain-water rise, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council reported. That dislodged legionnaires. Deforestation, vibrancy and erosion-by-rubber-tire-of-water to power plants compounded the problem. More Dome schools and cockpits in Cotabato morphed into evacuation centers.

President Aquino declared "war versus rain-storms" in Mindanao. Retired Ecology-of-rainstorm-doers would probe use of water lilies as energy source.

Fine. But what a weekend! "A sunny to-watch subversion is serious weekly weather-ed," a DOJ-ready pointer-out. Instead, don't-come-down-that-mountain-carefully message?

There were lines are a persistent-to-remain species from South America. There are one double in two weeks. They block water flow and prevent sunlight from reaching native plants, Domingo said.

Mindanao floods drop-surges-to-waters. The weeks in Dahilik, like those still ravaging Tsai Lake and Laguna de Bay today, Mongolians based in three-to-be. Is there a pattern-flatterns which connect to Mindanao's rainfall-to-be?

Disaster is connected to many things, he believes. "It's explosives," a worried Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo suggested. In Mindanao, backhoes, holes and bosses were present into-to-to.

Is there any evidence? It seems to-watch subversion is serious weekly weather-ed," a DOJ-ready pointer-out. Instead, don't-come-down-that-mountain-carefully message?

There were lines are a persistent-to-remain species from South America. There are one double in two weeks. They block water flow and prevent sunlight from reaching native plants, Domingo said.

Mindanao floods drop-surges-to-waters. The weeks in Dahilik, like those still ravaging Tsai Lake and Laguna de Bay today.

Precision journalism

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Walter Haragsahoy

TEE, JUNE 14-15, 2011. Social Weather Stations, reported through Dun not commissioned by Malacañang, found that Filipinos are 46 percent satisfied and 28 percent dissatisfied with President Aquino, implying net + 18 — + 46 minus dissatisfaction rating. 2011 classifies net ratings in the range of + 30 to + 49 as Good.

The previous SWS survey of March 4-7, 2011 had found 49 percent satisfied and 31 percent dissatisfied, for net + 18 (= + 49 minus dissatisfaction), which SWS called "Moderate" (+ 10 to + 29).

However, March said June, therefore, point-to-point (because full by 5 points. Since dissatisfaction was unchanged), net satisfaction fell by 5 points also, by simple subtraction.

Is slumping a presidential swing is a matter of race. Personally, I go by the historical record (sometimes ugly).

I use PIBoy's popularity as comparable to his predecessors. President Gloy Aquino had only two survey ratings in 1987, a +62 in March, and a + 46 in October, for an average of 54 (rounded) between the August 1987 military coup attempt. She ended her term at +17.

President Fidel Ramos had the longest honeymoon, with five Good scores for virtually 10 consecutive quarters, before growing + 23 in the 1Q of 1993 and + 21 in the 2Q of 1993. Ramos entered his Good for his quarter before gaining a + 23 on the debit he ended in +9. President Sloria Macapagal-Arroyo's highest score was a +30, or borderline "Good", she ended at -37.

The debit for the 2001 "EDSA II" revolt by demanded Erap. In his June 22 column, to "a wake up call for the President to pay up his unfulfilled promises before the rising dowdage sees a free fall," is to see Ka Dencio evaluations (in which a journalist-columnist Cesar Pobeliano, for his trend sing of the survey Equating SWS "Good to "Satisfied," and + things from "Very Good" to Good to a "slump," it often tiger means the best data's.

Similarly, I consider Ellen Tordesillas' June 13 blog "Binali pending request at PIBoy ang pagkatanggap ng sambayanan" as her evaluation of the "President may have regained her SWS rating, since she should have seen that there was no change in the "pagka-desmayado" sentiment, Manila to June.

Anong kapansin-pansin Norman Bordadora's June 22 article about the SWS rating is slipping "to play-40 in June from plus 61 in March and plus 64 in December 2010"? I mean that the most consistent treatment of journalists in using the simple + sign for an SWS net rating. It is due the Health of a copy editor?)

The + sign is an important reminder that a net rating is positive, not a minus sign that means dissatisfaction from the last table out. It shows that the normal balance of opinion leans towards the positive side. When dissatisfaction towards the negative, then the - sign will appear instead.

Unlike in algebra, the + sign for a positive net rating is not optional. Omitting the + sign and saying "40" for SWS' new rating for PNoy in June is a June 25 DWIP Newsday warning head, and in the June 22 Sun report by Helen Flores, is a grievous mistake. It is the only reason I can imagine for the gloomy headline of Inquirer columnist Marcelo Leslie Deudo. Same, a very intelligent man, that "half the population doesn't like him [P. Noy] anymore," as quoted by both Deudo & Bordadora of the interviewed Ateneo Prof. Antonio Contreras.

Hey I, also counter a few exaggerations. In PIBoy parlance, One may be professional spokesperson Ed ona Lacanda, and in Bordadora is saying, "the big information to the very good range"—no no, or call it just Good...and Yet GRC and Bordadora the rating is excellent"—no no, we call it just Very Good.

Another was the May Bert Castellanos, cited by Flores as saying, "remember that pre-administration re-second surprise ratings"—actually, to those was only one pair president, namely President Arroyo, who was ever surprisingly rated.

The purpose of an opinion poll about public satisfaction with President Aquino is not to tell you, dear reader, how you yourself should respond. Also—you know your closing of him already—but to tell you how the Filipino people in general respond to him, which is beneficial to all.

The only thing the opinion poll won't change your mind about the performance of the Presidency, assuming that an election survey will tell you for whom you yourself should vote. An election survey only tells you how the people in general intend to vote, which is very useful to know.

* * *

"The new precision journalism" dedicates Universary Press, 2011) is a textbook I highly recommend for journalists, having chapters on "Statistics: Friend or Foe," "Polls and Polling," and "The politics of precision journalism."

Its author, Philip Meyer, is both journalist and politico—a distinguished professor of journalism at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, and a former president of the World Association for Public Opinion Research.

Professor Meyer's book is for students of mass communication. Precision in writing for the print and broadcast media enhances communication to the general public. Opinion polling, on the other hand, is for the benefit of listening to what the general public has to say. More communication goes both ways.

Competent reporting on opinion polls sometimes the result of carefully informing the general public of their own collective opinion. It is one of the "good kinds of mass responsibility that is of modern democracy.

* * *

Contact: SWS, www.sws.org.ph or walter.mangahas@sws.org.ph.

No more fears

I PAID attention was.

Ever since I was young, I harbored physical aversions to cases of war or natural events which happened to me when I was in grade school.

The last one happened when I was coming to study my school bus. The bus was going to stop in front of my house, and then a schoolmate pushed me. She caused me to fall flat down on the asphalt road. My one front tooth cracked and broke. Blood dripped on my uniform. It was the most humiliating and terrifying event in my whole life. I had never cried so much. The blood came in the monsoon season. I vomited. From then on, I promised myself that I would never ride public.

The earthquake happening even happened while I was playing 15-20 yards near neighborhood friends. With my mouth wiping, one of our playmates tried to shout for adjusting the pulse, and I lost my balance. I was transported to 15-20 feet after the banner on my hips and arms got dislocated. I stopped playing. My parents had to negligence me to school for a month or so.

Pillow I stopped frolicking under the sun like a normal child, books became my best friends. They couldn't do me any harm. I think my love for reading was one of the reasons I teachers to dream and educate later.

After my high school, I was in a terrible care of my colleagues incited me to a Halloweener ma. I was hesitant. My blood-spattered freaks I was flushed to my mind. What if it happened again?

However, my parents teaches for free, was persistent. He told me he would be with me all the way. That it would be for the benefit of my self-confidence. That I have to participate. I was even technical chair for running with Isaid and wanted "I MADE A DIFFERENCE" printed on it. With the small amount I paid for the registration, I was probably able to make only a small difference in the life of a disabled person. But my decision made a difference in my life and in my self-worth. That "Wheelie Run" indeed wrought a miracle in my life because it became the start of so many more that made me a different person. It is never too late to change the course of things.

"Let's race half-marathon!" Ingrid once, another colleague and running buddy, challenged me for the umpteenth time. I wasn't sure if I could do it. When all the 21K dares were taken, I thought it would give me no excuse not to join.

When I visited the site of the race, I saw an awesome arena setup done for 21K which that had not been paid in the actual route would be given to other interested runners. A few moments after we registered, I was on my way to my self-training. I found myself that if he did was available, then it was not for me. But if one is still open, then it's destiny. I got one of the last half-marathon bars.

I prepared for the 21K by jogging regularly on campus. Sometimes when I'm running buddies who became my coaches, Dra. Maribeth Bandoja and Ingrid, we join in a jogging club and I was running with Mr. Paolo, Ms. Yvonne, Mr. Phelan, etc. At times I would go to sleep in my jogging arena so when I woke up, I would be ready to participate the day with a healthy dose of running.

One month before the race, my chronic cough caused by allergies returned. I wanted to be well, and healthy for my first half-marathon, so instead of jogging I slept a lot.

But a week before the race, my cough got worse. I was coughing while reading. My students, colleagues and supervisors gave me tissues, cookies, throat tablets, massages and even a mango to relieve my cough.

Two days before the race, some of my colleagues advised me not to run. I knew that's were concerned about my health. My boss, Ma'am Blanton, told me to go if I felt well enough but to adjust to my body carefully so that I wouldn't faint when to race.

On the day of the race, I knew I was not physically prepared for the run. I considered exchanging my bib to those under distance. Fred, a veteran runner, wanted to run the 21K but had not made the cut. If not availed slots, it would be a waste for the fee of it.

Fred trained me a few hours before the race and asked me where we could meet. I knew my coaches would be disappointed if I gave up on the 21K. So really to run. I made up my mind that I would finish the half-marathon. I might not be with prepared physically, but I was ready emotionally and spiritually. I was ready to finish long.

In the running line, I felt like a caste-outsider not prepared by athlete-like elements.

When the race began, he first and I started with a slow walk while everyone else sprinted ahead of us. We were both not feeling well so we just enjoyed the sights of Makati and shared tales about life and teaching.

At the 8K mark, I began to have cramps. We stopped by a manila canteen and a Big City beverage counter also gave me a free refreshing and a water gave me Gatorade pleasure.

When Fred's boss texted to say he had already crossed the finish line, I felt a surge of feelings. I was sad that Fred missed his fun run in my colors, shins and hamstrings. He stopped at another mile station and comments was applied on my legs to relieve the pain.

Pain. It has left, my muscles relied even more and the average of my pace was getting worse. the medical team placed me at complete every legs.

At the 20 km marker, consecutive blunder lady showed and slapped for us. "Go, guys. You can do it!" she urged us. Then more and more people were cheering for us. They were complete strangers, but their support is still helpful.

When I was about to finish the 21K, I saw my other coaches and friends. I was so delighted and I thanked them for my success. There were no more words to express them. I only know a stronger person has been born. I was in 2nd Division.

Mara Melanie B. Bruz, 25, teaches at the Ateneo de Manila University.

'Transforming leaders'

Global studies show that leadership is a key component of academic quality, but also that too many kinds of leadership as there are leaders. In Jose F. Almeda, the esteemed educator, shares his views on the subject. This is the first of two parts.)

COMMENTARY

Dr. Jose V. Almeda

PRESIDENT AQUINO should submit the issues and examples of our heroes and martyrs, including his revered parents and even a hundred others mentioned in the Bantayog ng mga Bayani, for winning the country and corruption of firsthand Masters and his undersecretaries expose. Then investigate to see if they qualify as "transforming" or "transactional leaders" we want in a "transformed era."

James MacGregor Burns describes "transforming leaders" as those who...seek their purpose, vision and strategies...do much more than just bargain with fellow leaders or followers. They jointly achieve mutual goals and seek changes in the direction of higher values." I'd say that those would include our lofty constitutional ideals of democracy, justice, good governance, the rule of law, truth, love, human rights, public accountability and the common good.

Notable examples include Ramon Magsaysay, Emmanuel Pelaez, Benigno S. Aquino Jr. and Corazon Aquino, Jose W. Diokno, Raul Manglapus, Francisco Soc Rodrigo, Jovito R. Salonga, and Lorenzo Tañada.

On the other hand, "transactional leaders" use their power and patronage to gain the support and loyalty of their followers, and little more.

Ferdinand Marcos was—and remains—our most notorious "transactional leader." In 1965, Marcos campaigned on a platform of "honesty" and "no to graft and corruption" and "economic progress and social justice for the masses." But virtually ushered his own ballast by 1970—the third term of his second term—when he purchased martial law purportedly "to save the Republic from the communist and our democracy" that were "imperiled by the danger of a violent overthrow, insurrection and rebellion" and "criminality and lawless violence" [sic].

It appears that Marcos' corrupt means preceded the declaration of martial law and not vice versa, as many mentioned historians seeking it. The political criminal studies relate politicians assume that revenues has a price, and a person's loyalty or acquiescence can be bought or sold at a price.

Therefore, with enough wealth, you could gain power and influence and control and perpetuate it. You could close any such system or force the property, submission and obedience to your will, with some degree of trade-off and acquiescence. You can also try to force these questions of the end would-be leaders. They are public figures and so find them with lies and propaganda. Never mind morality, the human spirit, and social conscience.

The cumulative outcome and the term of the Marcos dictatorship that added over 15 years to his term in office is a conventional paradigm of "transactional leaders" in a corrupt system. Democracy was destroyed, the economy was in ruins, and the culture-driven system, or culture and systems aggravated.

The Philippines was arguably better off than our neighbors in East and Southeast Asia in the years up to the proclamation of Martial Law. Despite 40 years of colonialism. Our rampant corruption and bad governance, and social and economic backwardness today have been brought about mainly by leaders whose drive for power were essentially transactional, largely self-serving, selfish, limited of being loyal public servants and social leaders at will.

* * *

Dr. Jose V. Almeda is president of Bataan Collegiate Institute and Bataan Polytechnic College, Balanga City, and Public Administrator, a recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation, and a former president of the Rotary Club of the Philippines.

It's still basic education

BUSINESS MATTERS

Chito B. Sulcedo

THE PERPETUAL weakness of the products of our higher education institutions (HEIs) continues to concern the business community and the non-state agencies (NSAs) that monitor their performance. In 2010, the average passing rate across disciplines was below 50 percent. From 2004 to 2008, this average never went beyond 39 percent. For the more recent years, the number of examinees who do not pass the boards, going through four or five years of college preparation for a profession that they will not be able to practice, are expected to experience years of time, talent and money.

If we disaggregate these figures, the facts become even more appalling. In the licensure examinations for teachers, LET, in 2010, 35 percent of the teacher education examinees (TEEs), roughly 200,000 persons, did not produce a single passer. In the period 2004 to 2009, covering 10 LETs, 154 TEE produced no licensed teachers. There are the schools that are responsible for training the teachers on whom the education of our country's youth depends.

There are a number of causes for the poor quality of our higher education systems...from inadequate faculty credentials (more than half of our university and college professors have only a bachelor's degree) to inadequate facilities (according to CHED, only 5 percent of HEIs have sufficient facilities). Others on the unregulated expansion of local and state universities and colleges (LUCs/SUCs), side by side with what private HEIs complain is an overregulated regime, plus the rampant mushrooming of HEIs registered, and not subject to effective regulation.

However, poor performance in board licensure exams will never be addressed until our basic education system is improved. The college products are weak primarily because our high school graduates are weak. In the 2009 2010 National Achievement Test, the mean scores for second year high school students were 46.46, and 47 percent in Math, in science and English, respectively. That's disturbing, their grades in these subjects were taken by. Because of the automatic rule of automatic promotion in the public school system despite their lack of preparation, classes are thus overwhelmed with grade 7 students who are not ready.

As a result, students from public schools enter college with a Grade 8 competency in Math and Reading, which means we have freshmen who can't read and comprehend well (sixth grader. But in freshman year, students in many courses must pass an entrance exam in engineering, take advanced algebra, while those in education, take statistics. How does a sixth grader survive such classes?

A step-gap measure has been the addition of at least two years of general education curriculum, to ensure that college graduates are more mature. Some college students must spend high school subjects like Algebra, Basic English and Literature, in order to make up for the installment learning in basic education. However, the addition of at least two years' worth of these courses crowds out the professional subjects, course-meaning the program can scratch for the licensure examinations.

Therefore, the quality of college entrants, combined with inadequate career preparation due to the crowded curriculum, is at the root of the low rate of passing in licensure examinations. Only a small number of HEI professors, or high-tech infrastructure, or accreditation programs, can make up for the basic flaw that is not to say that we should not reform higher education itself but I learn than the another article. The students are simply too far behind and do have enough time—even in the four years or five years of tertiary education to equivalent grade competencies in first things to set freshmen to a first year college level. These same students are expected to pass the board/licensure examinations, and get a job.

Some private schools have tried fresh elements to go to college, and so we should establish a rigorous college entrance examination system. This would solve many of the quality issues, as it would prevent ill-prepared students from entering college. However, their lack of preparation is mainly because of a defective public education system—one full of dedicated and good-hearted teachers and administrators—that continues to produce mass-promoted graduates. Even more disturbing is that many students would reasonably insist that some public school graduates would not be able to proceed to college. This is unnecessary to penalizing the poor who have little choice but to go to public schools.

The solution to our basic education problems lies in strengthening the system itself. There are those who would remedy short, fill-in entrance gaps, and to ensure the number of years in the basic education cycle. And indeed, the time necessary to bring the education system are moving in the right direction. But the real solution is to improve the quality of education from the ground up. The responsibility for our college graduates lies not only in higher education but in a high-quality basic education.

The principal attributes of the graduates of our higher education institutions (HEIs)—competency and rightly concern the business community. But this concern must then translate into support for the massive and immediate reform of our basic education system. After all, no measure of remedying can make up for a weak foundation.

Chito B. Sulcedo is president of the Philippine Business for Education.

YOUNG BLOOD

Maria Melanie D. Perez

He wants to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? He welcome contributions from the country on the op-ed beat to...dial...

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

JPE, Inquirer see eye to eye

INQUIRER'S JUNE 22 editorial ("Hunger as war") hit the bull's eye when it pointed out that the country's last international low-cut in cultural our rupees the support of the international community in acknowledgment in the looming confrontation with China over its aggressive behavior over the South China Sea.

I say sure that is also when the 14th Congress had in right when the Senate and House panels met on Feb. 9, 2009 to thrash out differences in their versions of what would eventually be signed on March 31, 2009 as Republic Act No. 9522, "An Act to Amend Certain Provisions of RA 9066, as amended by RA 3046, To Define The Archipelagic Baseline of the Philippines and For Other Purposes."

Under that law, the baseline in the Kalayaan Island Group as contained under Presidential Decree 1596, and Bajo de Masinloc, also known as Scarborough Shoal, over which the Philippines exercises sovereignty and jurisdiction, were determined as "regime of islands" under the Republic of the Philippines consistent with Article 121 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Transcripts of the proceedings of that bicameral conference show that on the issue of whether we are abandoning those islands and the surrounding waters by treating them as regime of islands, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who was also then the Senate president and chief author of the Senate panel, emphasized that we are not abandoning anything but we instead enhancing our rights over those islands and protecting our territorial integrity, including our internal waters. On concerns that our negotiations with international claims or assertions, Enrile argued such fears stating that the law being crafted was in accordance with international law.

"What I am saying is that we stay way within international law, in the Convention on the Law of the Sea, and our internal law is in accordance with that, and the consensus if we go into the international arena for settling interstate disputes peacefully and we go to our case so that the sympathy of the world will be with us," Enrile explained when he was asked as to what mechanism that we would use to settle the dispute over claims in the South China Sea.

This similar to what the bilateral fact-finding mission was. This information may also, in a small way, help clarify the discussion.

—BERNADEDETTE L. CASAS, director, Legislative Research Service, Senate, Room 2006, GSIS Financial Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

Questionable DOTC deals: underlings staying in gov't

WE WRITE to the forum of truth and because the Filipino public is entitled to know the facts. The Department of Transportation and Communications, under Secretary Jose "Ping" de Jesus, has been touted as a showcase of good governance and transparency. Allow us to cite some questionable deals that the secretary and his underlings (such as the DOTC like the Radar Control System, MRT privatization, and the highly disadvantageous contract between the CNS and Inmarsat).

The P 3.5 billion radar project was awarded to the Indra-Elta-Thales consortium during the Arroyo administration and professed during its lease month. The first phase cost P4.8 billion, the second, P2.1 billion. The award to Transcom Dalaw was illegal, according to the Commission on Audit (COA). It was noted that the entire Japanese-funded transmission did (somewhat) the government several years ago as "Cbf Boondoggle," but it eventually abandoned the "Global Maritime Distress Signal System (GMDSS)" project. The latter should have been disqualified. In fact, COA was highly critical of the DOTC in a memorandum sent to the agency's officials for "the disqualifying questions/defects."

Despite the COA findings, and the golden opportunity to do what is right, De Jesus authorized the release of P68 million to the contractor representing 15 percent of the project cost, as modification fee. This was subsequently disallowed by the COA in its entirety.

Another issue that casts doubts on De Jesus' performance is the project expansion of the operation and maintenance of the MRT (Franchise Holder) toward a public private partnership (PPP) arrangement, where the winning bidder is paid only if the earnings of the MRT and therefore maximized for good maintenance and penalized for downtimes. Reportedly, P4bn/ yr. Inland air arrangements that was unsolicited/unsolicited, were transparent, no competent and with no out-of-pocket expense for government, to remove the winning bidder to take over the operations and maintenance of the MRT at no cost to the government in exchange for an extension of the 25 year contract, depending on the amount of investment the private operator would put in the project. As deep sources, De Jesus seemed to put the winning bidder P15 billion-over three years. Instead of a PPP arrangement, De Jesus favored a "Service Contract."

Boss of the boss' underlings—Daniel Bilanes, Eduardo Monsod and Ruben Bernaus—called a press conference recently to announce that they too were resigning to "give the incoming secretary a free hand," to the same time, they accused the President of rescinding another support for the DOTC's programs. Someone also announced he was going back to his old job at the Senate, and one of the Office of the Executive Secretary.

After parting the President in a bad light, they now want to go back to their "old jobs" in the P-Noy presidency. To top it all, they are levying D-Day rate the House for their incompetence and mischief. What self-servers.

—DAVID HSIH, flortwo@yahoo.com

'Survey-speak': needless sounds

ONE OF the most irritating and confusing jargons to emerge in recent times is that so-called "unemployment or dissatisfaction ratings" used to express on public opinion surveys. The "plus" and "minus" figures that are supposed to represent job ratings of their disapproval only confuse the readers and leave them to return to unsatisfactory mental calculations in order to obtain the meaning of the survey findings. Its, journalistic reports are supposed to be done, concise and simple.

Percentages are always used for determinance 100. So if 50 percent approves of a personality, that means that 50 out of 100, or one-half of the respondents, approve of the issue or the personality. There is no such thing as a "net" percentage, since all percentages are calculated. The difference between those who approve or disapprove, or who have no opinion, is meaningless, for it is already clear in the percentage numbers.

The in why no foreign media ever use any "net percentage (ratings" of pros or versus, for what is being sought is the number of supporters or disapprovals as a fraction of the population. The phrase "plus 24" is meaningless, unless another number is supplied on the other side of the equation. A simple percentage of yes or no is sufficient to give the picture.

I think that the pollsters or survey agencies that introduced this gobbledygook are only trying to appear as sound smarter than lobsters, or project themselves as pedagogic nerds, jargon, gibberish, mumbo-jumbo, balderdash, hieroglyphics, hobby, mirrors and the like—in vain.

Let's express simply, if the approval rating has gone down, say from 60 percent to 44 percent, just say it dropped 4 percentage points. That will be clear and concise.

—MANUEL D. ALMARIO, spokesman, Movement for Truth in History, mlalmario@yahoo.com

NCC dare taken, stronger NQI pushed

IN RESPONSE to the challenge of Guillermo Luz, ex-chair of the National Competitiveness Council or NCC (Inquirer, 3/21/11, Pulsating) Inc. forwards represents in support for the NCC proposals to raise the competitiveness ranking of our country.

PhilMEVO is a non-profit professional organization advocating the establishment of a stronger National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) or technical infrastructure for the Metrology Standards Testing Quality (MSTQ) system in the country...to achieve global competitiveness.

We said that:

• The formulation of standards by the Bureau of Product Standards Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Agriculture and Department of Health for food products and processes, harmonized with international standards, and is structured to local technical regulations.

• The accreditation of local laboratories to ISO/IEC17025, the international standard for laboratory testing, so that products tested in ISO 17025-accredited laboratories and the use of the services of accredited laboratories by national competent authorities and conformity assessment bodies for export of products will be accepted in the global market.

• Enhanced capability of the National Metrology Laboratory at the Department of Science and Technology to ensure that local measurements are traceable to international system of measurement units and are comparable with measurements done in other countries.

• The accreditation of certifying bodies for product quality, management quality, food safety quality and environment quality by the Philippine Accreditation Office according to international requirements of quality standards.

PhilMEVO believes that one way we can improve our competitiveness is by getting as many country's systems of accreditation and certification that will ensure that measurements and testing of our products and services will guarantee that the quality of our products and services are internationally acceptable. This quality infrastructure will help attract potential investors to produce Philippine products that can compete in the global market.

We strongly support the NCC in having the challenges to improve our competitiveness, pero sa lupa!

—DR. EVANGELINE C. SANTIAGO, president, PhilMEVO Inc., c/o Pipat, Jerome de Manila University, Legaspi Bridges, Quezon City

Months of waiting for SSS verification

WE READ with great interest Sen. Wilfredo Jones' (YES) issue of 15 days longer than 3 months") in the June 8 issue of the Inquirer.

We recently requested with two My wife and 1 both retirees, have long requested the SSS a similar manual verification to be done on our co-passed months (15 months and five years of contributions, respectively) through SSS Cal Pilot.

My wife's request was duly marked received last Oct. 11, 2009 and mine was July 30, 2010. So it has been 20 months (for my wife) and 11 months (for myself) waiting since we filed our requests.

We don't really know where to go for help. We are ahead in the brink of giving up. But five years of hard-earned contributions should mean a lot for us retirees with no regular monthly income to bank on anymore.

We believe we deserve something better, don't you think so?

Anyway, we wish Wilfredo all the best. Perhaps leaving the country is the same time while waiting for an answer/reply from the SSS is too much stand alone.

—DR. ADOLFO DELA ROSA, whelladlfo@gmail.com

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Bishop bares 'questionable transactions'

COTABATO CITY—What has gone wrong with the three-year flood-control program in Mindanao that then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had established through an executive order?

Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, who heads the Mindanao River Basin Rehabilitation and Development (MRBRD) Task Force (TF), has said during President Aquino's visit here on Wednesday that such questions should be answered so floods devastated low-lying areas along the path of Rio Grande de Mindanao, including their city and nearby areas of Maguindanao and North Cotabato.

He, meantime, he said the issue should be on how to alleviate the woes of the flood victims, numbering 50,000 families in the city alone. The flood-control projects, which was established after the 2006 floods here that submerged for one city's villages, has a budget of P7 billion from 2009 to 2012.

Quevedo said after all the effects, cities and huge investments poured into the heavily silted Cotabato Agusan river basin to prevent the 2006 flooding from happening again, the "worst flash floods" this month made people wonder what happened to the program.

COTABATO residents displaced by the flash floods in Cotabato City stay in an evacuation center where they await relief assistance.

Quevedo admitted that he has questioned "questionable transactions," which he declined to make public, and said these were all included in the TF's periodic report to the Palace.

The former head of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has clarified that the TF's budget goes through the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) regional office in Central Mindanao, which is based in Cotabato City.

Quevedo said the TF has no control over the final disbursements that started with an initial release of P68 million, followed by P30 million to P68 million in minor releases from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

He said his group was only tasked to monitor, evaluate and recommend to the President all MRBRD-related projects.

He said the TF was also tasked to conduct a feasibility study of flood-control proposals and construct plus and these will be ready by July. In September 2009, TF executive director Ardonis Hadjy reported Chief of the P80 million released by the DBM a month before, only P5 million remained as dredging work continued in the Tamontaka Mindanao River then, nothing significant was heard of the dredging operations.

Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson told reporters here the "realignment of projects" occasioned the delay, but was quick to say that the money is now held.

Pilares asked how much land was left for the MRBRD projects, the President said it would be best to keep the interest to themselves.

"Some might think and ask for it only to go to waste," Mr. Aquino said.

The President's statement elicited adverse comments. "How can there be accountability without investigation?" asked Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao information chief Ali Macabalang.

But Gov. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., who was here on Friday to distribute relief items to displaced families in two evacuation sites, said he was informed by Singson in a phone conversation that the remaining MRBRD fund of P5.66 million "is safe and intact" in the DPWH account.

"The DPWH is doing well under Singson's watch," said Revilla, the Senate public works committee chair, who was here with his wife, Governor Rep. Lani Mercado, to distribute relief goods.

Meanwhile, some displaced families in one of the city's evacuation centers complained that they were excluded from distribution by the DSWD.

"Since we moved here a week ago, we have not received a pack of rice but other evacuees have more than enough," said Bai Rahjaira, an evacuee from Barangay Poblacion Shabet-Shabet, Inquirer Mindanao correspondents Jaime Laude and Edson Kycuyan contributed reports from Zamboanga Sibugay and Davao Occidental, Inquirer Mindanao

Health execs concerned about pneumonia, diarrhea in evacuation centers

COTABATO CITY—Health officials in Central Mindanao and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) said the regional health offices has spent P900,000 to prevent flood victims from catching illnesses.

Close to 70,000 families were affected by the floods in the two regions.

Michelle Tiramina, Department of Health (DOH) 12 director, said there is the evacuation centers were in danger of catching water-borne diseases.

Tiramina said the DOH has procured water containers and distributed water purification tablets and medicines to combat the advent of water-borne diseases.

Raid Sinolinding, ARMM health secretary, said health workers were also deployed in flooded areas in Maguindanao to monitor the health of affected victims.

During his visit last on Wednesday, President Aquino instructed government agencies to make sure the flooded victims were being taken care of.

The government, reports from agencies indicated, has spent P3.5 million for the relief efforts.

Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, head of the task force on Mindanao River Basins, said several projects could help alleviate the situation. "One is the establishment of catchments like a super dike, in the city."

Quevedo pointed out that "Cotabato City lies under sea level, making it a catch basin of the rivers."

The prelate said there should also be simultaneous dredging of the rivers around the city and in Maguindanao and regular clearing of water lines/drifts.

"We will reevaluate those ongoing projects. We need huge money for these and let's talk these are assumptions. Maybe, instead of going against nature, we should find ways to harness it," Mr. Aquino said in response to Quevedo's suggestions.

Col. Prudencio Asto, spokesperson of the military's 6th Infantry Division, said the hopeful that soldiers were conducting river patrols to intercept water lilies before they reached the Datu Saliga here. He said lack of equipment hounded the de-clogging efforts. Rose Hay de Guzman and Jeniffer Mathos, Inquirer Mindanao

VFA commission probes road mishap involving US soldier

LAOAG CITY—The Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement is now looking into Wednesday's vehicular accident in Laoag City, in which two civilians and a US soldier were involved.

The commission's vice chair would request the US soldier involved refused police detention and was allegedly rude after he hit the victims.

Undersecretary Edilberto Adan, VFA Commission executive director, told reporters here on Friday that what they knew was that the victims were given medical attention.

"They have been taken care of, the injured passengers were brought to the hospital and they adequately received medical attention and everything is in order," he said.

The two victims, Jomalie Mallorca, 19, a Filipino motorbike of Gab Lyndi in Albuera town and his brother Nadarsa, 14, were riding in tandem on a motorbike along Barangay Bengcal in Laoniban City when intercepted by a pickup truck being driven by Sgt. Joseph Brown on Wednesday morning.

SPO4 Ambrosio Rolfo, investigator of the Laoniban City police office, said residents of Bengcal village informed them about the accident.

"We rushed to the area and we found the two young males sprawled on the road," Rolfo told the Inquirer by phone.

He said witnesses had told police investigators that they saw three vehicles bearing American soldiers running at a high speed toward Isabela City prior to the incident.

Rolfo said one of the vehicles, bearing license plate MK 825 and was driven by Brown, was took a passenger bus and overtaked on the lane intended for motorcycles.

"When the driver overtook the bus, he narrowly missed the first motorbike, which fell into the ditch, but the pickup driven for the next motorbike, being driven by Mallorca," he said.

Rolfo said because of the impact, the Mallorca siblings were thrown several meters away from their motorbike.

He said Brown refused to be detained and rejected police efforts to impound his vehicle.

Rolfo said charges for reckless imprudence resulting to double serious physical injuries were being readied against the US soldier.

He said the victims were initially brought to Alano Memorial Hospital in Laoniban City but they had to be transferred to Ospital Ilocandia there due to serious injuries.

Rolfo said the elder Mallorca has opened his eyes but Nadarsa remained unconscious as of yesterday.

Adan said the VFA Com investigation would be coordinated with the police.

"We have our protocols, procedures. To become investigation by the police, we will see to it that any aggrieved party is answered and to the satisfaction of everybody," Adan said.

But he said he was being "pressured."

"I got calls from officials, who asked me to review our investigation report. How could I do that? That was what the witnesses told us," he said.

Rolfo bagged off when asked who the officials were.

Lt. Col. Randolph Cabangbang, spokesperson of the military's Western Mindanao Command and Major Richard Anderson Lyon, spokesperson of the public affairs officer of Joint Special Operations Task Force Philippines sent text messages on Wednesday about a motorbike hitting an HMV carrying US troops in tinatuu, which contradicted the police report.

They also both sent text messages that said the US military personnel rendered first-aid assistance to the injured local males, contrary to the local police's report the victims were sprawled on the road when policemen arrived at the site of the accident.

A source, who asked not to be named because of the sensitivity of his position, said some of the US soldiers involved in the site of the accident provided initial medical assistance to the victims.

"Filipino soldiers were the ones who brought the victims to the hospital," the source said, adding the US soldiers were even rude to the local police.

Anderson could not say anything about Brown's whereabouts but pledged cooperation in the investigation. Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

It has come to the knowledge of Evercrest Golf Club Resort, Inc. that the properties [Golf course, hotel, clubhouse, etc.] shall be sold at public auction.

Please be informed that the same properties remain the subject of a case now pending before the Court of Appeals (CA-GR SP No. 109927)wherein Evercrest has vigorously assailed the Orders of the trial court allowing the sale on execution of said properties previously covered by TCTs nos. T-117007, T-117008 and T-117009 all issued in the name of Evercrest.

Further, please be informed that upon undue cancellation of said titles and the issuance of new titles (TCTs nos. 055-2010001001, 055-2010001002 and 055-2010001003 in the name of BSP), Everciest on November 12, 2010 has caused the annotation of a Notice of Lis Pendens on each of the three (3) new titles under Entry no. 2010001133. The fact of annotation is verifiable from the records of the Register of Deeds of Nasugbu, Batangas.

Lastly, the public is warned from any misrepresentations by unscrupulous individuals or entities regarding the said properties, which remained embroiled in a legal dispute.

Evercrest Golf Club Resort, Inc.

Alcala still mayor despite SC ruling–DILG

School denies using funds for swimmers

By Marian Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCBAN, Quezon—The administration of Tayabas College denied by the family of former Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) chair Efraim Genuino helped allegedly find it benefited from a P50-million fund from the state-run gaming company.

"We are an independent institution and we have nothing to do with that issue," said Cindy Bilbord, the lone staff of Tayabas College who faced the reporters on Thursday.

Bilbord was responding to the graft, money laundering, technical malversation and violation of the forfeiture law cases filed by the new Pagcor management against Genuino, the head of a private swimmers' association and the Philippine Sports Commission for alleged misusing P54 million in illegal fund intended for the country's swimming athletes.

The complainants alleged that the previous Pagcor management had unlawfully handed funds meant for sports development to the private Philippine Amateur Swimming Association (Paaa), which in turn allegedly channeled the money to the school owned by the family of Genuino.

In an attempt to seek the school's comment, the reporters requested phone and personal interviews with the school officials but was denied entry to the private high-end academic institution that also houses "sanitary" facilities such as hotel suites, a fitness gym and an aquatic sports complex.

Bilbord, talking with the reporters at the school's gate, said the only "person in charge"—whose name she also refused to give due to confidentiality—of answering media queries is out of the country until July.

Tayac College first opened as a computer school here sometime in 1995, according to residents here.

In 1998, Tayac College opened its hotel facilities, and in 2003, an Olympic-sized swimming pool. Tayac College hosted the aquatic events in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

Genuino's wife, Aurora, is the president of Tayac College while their son, lawyer Erwin, who was lost in the 2004 mayoral race in Makati City, served as the school's manager.

The school's staff member, however, said they did not have any contact with the Genuinos.

Another Genuino son, Anthony, is the mayor of this town. During his campaign in 2010, Anthony answered criticisms that he was not a resident of Los Baños by claiming residence at the Tayac College.

The staff member said he never held a position in the school.

Manfred Sala, former vice president of Tayac College on academics and now the municipal administrator, said the mayor is "not in the position" to speak about the issues involving the college.

He said Anthony lays his hands off the school operations since he ran for mayor of this town.

"It really doesn't know about that," she said, speaking for Anthony, who refused to answer phone calls and was out of his office on Thursday.

Sala said it was very unlikely that the fund went to Tayac College, saying the school "has its own accounting (and is) a non-stock, nonprofit institution." She did not elaborate on this.

Tayac College has been hosting and providing high school and college scholarships to the members of the Philippine swimming team, or Paaa, since 2005.

"They (athletes) have to stay there because their trainings are in the morning and in the afternoons," said Ave Gonzaga, the secretary for technical affairs of the Southern Tagalog Amateur Swimming Association.

MOTOR-COPS
Motorcycle-riding cops arrest robbery suspects in this June 20 reenactment of an operation carried out by Diana del Mar's police escort riders that led to the arrest of four suspected holdup men in Panabo City early this month.

By Dodo T. Mabait Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCBAN, CITY—An official of the Department of the Interior and Local Government on Friday said Vice Mayor Roderick Alcala is still the official local chief executive of this city even with the Supreme Court giving back the authority to Mayor Barbara Ruby Talaga.

"As far as the DILG is concerned, Alcala is still the mayor," Josefina Castillo Co, DILG-Calabarzon director, said in a phone interview on Friday.

Co also maintained that Alcala still has the legal authority to sign documents as mayor until the DILG ordered him to stop serving as the city's chief executive.

She explained that since it was the Commission on Elections (Comelec) that served Friday last week the order for Talaga to resume her post in favor of Alcala, it would also be the poll body to officially notify Talaga and Alcala on the SC order.

Confusion

She said once the Comelec has served the official notice to the two political protagonists, the DILG would immediately follow the transition.

The Inquirer sought the clarification from the DILG official in the wake of confusion among local government workers.

"We don't know whom to obey and the lawful authority to sign government documents that requires the signature of the city mayor," one of the department heads complained.

Talaga, who was locked up at her office since June 17, only left the City Hall after receiving the SC order on Tuesday and has not been back since then. She is reportedly in Manila for an official business, according to a staff member at the mayor's office.

But for Talaga's husband, former Governor Rhayan Ramon Talaga Jr., who was appointed city administrator by his wife, Alcala had lost his authority to sign documents after the SC issued the order maintaining the status quo in the city, which means that Talaga should continue as city mayor while her appeal in reverse the Comelec ruling canceling her from office is being deliberated by the court.

"He should stop acting as city mayor because he no longer has the authority. All governments documents that bore his signature even after the SC order will be null and void and illegal," the city administrator said in an interview on Thursday.

Talaga's husband, in his capacity as city administrator, issued a memorandum to all department heads informing them of the SC order and attached a photocopy of the order.

Illegal' memo

City Councilor Jay Oliver Alejandrino, a lawyer and Alcala's political ally, claimed that Ramon Talaga's issuance of the memorandum as city administrator was illegal.

"When his wife stepped down as mayor, his function as city administrator also ended because his office was coterminous with his wife's office. He can be charged in court," Alejandrino said over local radio Friday.

On June 17, Comelec representatives braved the human barricade set up by Talaga's supporters at the City Hall and implemented the poll body's May 20 ruling unseating Talaga and have her replaced by Alcala, who took his oath of office before a Lucena Regional Trial Court judge on the day.

After his initial assumption as city mayor, Alcala held office at the City Hall annex building in Barangay Isabang in the outskirts of the city while Talaga was holed up in her office at the old City Hall.

INQUIRER Visasyas

Editor Jose Bonifacio Jr.
Business Chief Connie B. Fernandez

'Volunteaming' spirit in GK projects

By Cris Evert B. Lato
Romblon Island, Cebu

NICORAIN Saludaldo, 21, wears a Nash—a small-sized headdress for Muslim women—while helping build a house in Barangay Tayas, Madridejos town in the northern Cebu island of Bantayan.

She didn't mind the wooden bird nest as she climbed the scaffoldings and pestered contestants in the hollow blocks.

Building a house has become one of the morning graduate's hobbies since she became a Gawad Kalinga (GK) volunteer in 2006.

"I receive invitations among people to see their shows in a Muslim setup so helping build a house. The important message here is that everybody a working together to help one fellow Filipinos," says Nicorain, grassroots officer of the GK division.

Bayani Challenge

Nicorain joined nearly 2,000 volunteers from 27 Philippine provinces and three countries—Australia, Singapore and the United States—in April during the sixth GK Bayani Challenge, an annual activity that started in 2006.

The first bounce were put up on April 4-8 for 30 families chosen with the assistance of the local government unit and the beneficiaries of Iloilo Provincial Social Welfare and Development agency (PSWDO) executive director Jose Luis Ogochuco.

"Bantayan's configuration is ideal for a new approach of bringing the GK area from the 10, since to the municipalities," Ogochuco said.

Twenty houses were built in Madridejos and 10 in Bantayan town.

Employee volunteers

Jeffrey Tecson, Globe Telecom's head for corporate social responsibility (CSR), said 20 employees from Globe and shareholder Singapore Telecommunications Limited volunteered to build the houses.

"Apart from helping people, this is an innovative way of conducting our team buildings. We call this volunteaming," Tecson said.

Another participation in GK has been recorded one after two Last year, P1.8 million of its P40-million CSR allocation was funneled to IDCast GK-related projects.

Globe Globe volunteers participated in the GK Bayani Challenge this year while SingTel sent 12, including Billy Tan, head consultant of SingTel's subsidiary SCCDN Ltd.

This a Tan's first experience in a volunteer work outside of Singapore. His competition was two rooms darker after five days of building, but like Nicorain, he didn't mind.

EMPLOYEES of Singapore Telecommunications, shareholder of Globe Telecom, serve as carpenters and masons for the five-day Gawad Kalinga build. The volunteers, a mix of Filipinos and Singaporeans, say the experience has been an eye opener for them. STAR/CRIS LATO

Eye-opener for Singaporean

"This is quite an eye-opener for to because we don't see this kind of situation people living in situation in Singapore. I am proud to be part of this," he said.

Civil engineer Dinah Bonilla said he understood the people's needs, having experienced life in a disaster-area himself.

For Dominici Alcala, helping build a house for GK beneficiaries like himself was a way of paying it forward. Alcala's family now lives in GK Bagong Silang Village in Carcosan City.

"My mom's mom-in-law passed away in 2007 in Bicol. I saw people left homeless because of Typhoon Frank[e] and I own how they suffer. But I also felt how thankful they are for even help," he said.

60, provincial head Arsenio Ibot said Sec. Gwendolyn Garcia promised to give P1 million, he Bantayan, while Sup. Ramon Salimbangon of the local's district pledged P6 million for Bantayan and Madridejos.

If this materializes, 90 more houses will be built out of the total 99 million. Each house costs P100,000.

A night study tour of Cebu history, heritage

By Cris Evert B. Lato
Cebu City

ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD Doreen Fuentescosta originally read the explanatory texts beside each historical figure inside the Museo sa Sugbo in Cebu City.

By was interested in every item displayed at the government-owned museum, which was once a provincial jail during the Philippine revolution in the late 1890s and the Japanese occupation in the early 1940s.

"My favorite history. He keeps on asking what happened during World War II, how were the Filipinos like during the Ramon Deidi Marcos," said Doreen's mother, Grizelda.

It was no wonder that the boy didn't show any sign of boredom as if the Museo at Sugbo was the family's fourth stop during the "Gabii sa Kabilin" (Night of Heritage).

Eighteen museums and heritage sites opened their doors to about 3,000 visitors from 6 p.m. to midnight on May 27 during the annual cultural caravan organized by the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc. (RAFI).

Overflowing crowd

Dr. Jocelyn Gotis, executive director of RAFI's culture and heritage unit, said all museums reported overflowing crowd even if it was raining that night.

"Parents heading to the museum were filled with people—walking or riding in the seventh (horse-drawn carriage) and boats.

Although they had yet to outbit the total number, Gotis said this year's attendance might have reached the target of 5,000, more than double to last year's 2,000.

People flocked to the night market on Colon Street while entertainers stopped by Plaza Parian to witness the Santacruzan re-enacted by 'fed handlings.

At the heritage proper stood a display inside the Cathedral museum, a cultural show was staged in Plaza San Pedro. In the meantime, a night of music was a concert in the Casa Gorordo Museum.

Youth education

Cebu Archbishop Emeritus Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, who visited the Cathedral Museum about 8 p.m., said the event was a good property to inform the young people about the 9th century culture and heritage.

"It is important to instill in the minds of people the values of our heritage and past. Many people are lost. Their mind and self religious attitudes because they do not appreciate what their ancestors," he said.

People lined up in front of the Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral to wait for their turn in riding in the tartanilla that would bring them to Fort San Pedro.

Dave Beato Jimenez, a fashion (carriage driver) for eight years, said it was a joy to see people roaming to try the ride.

Handlers are only found in Barangay Tisaria, near the Carbon market, and have been educated about to offshoot, he said.

Alicia Fernandez kept keeps of the Museo Parian in Sugbo since 1 a.m. But as close to midnight, he was still all smiles to be welcomed visitors at the Museo Parian in Sugbo.

Hardware compound

Also known as the 1730 house—the Museo was once the residence of the Jesuit Superior in Cebu inside the compound of the Yang Hardware along Salazar Street in Barangay Parian, the former's landing director of Cebu.

"This was only used as a warehouse for the hardware's. Two years ago, the Cebu City Tourism Council asked the (Yu) family to open this to the public," said architect Anthony Abelgas, who is behind the house's restoration.

The Yu family, owners of the 10-year-old Yang Hardware, which maintains the museum, added their unique collection and artifacts of some Spanish and Chinese artifacts used by farmers residents.

Provided and the atmosphere was festive in the new since the boats—made of wood stone walls, were rocks and and sugar hand-wood floor and posts—were restored and opened to the public.

"It's different. People come here to see how a 200-year-old house looks like. Some of us (who work in the hardware) volunteered in helping our way parents around the house," said Princhels, who has been working with the store for five years now.

Province-wide event?

Doreen said the success of the Gabii sa Kabilin had encouraged organizers to mount it on a province-wide night of heritage next year. This year, the Gabii sa Kabilin covered museums and heritage sites in the cities of Mandaue and Cebu.

"This is what we want to reflect and to encourage other towns and municipalities to organize their own versions of Gabii sa Kabilin," she said.

Each participant paid P1.50 to gain access to all museums and heritage sites, and free bus and tartanilla rides.

The heritage sites are Mandaue City Central Plaza, Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral, Basilica del Sto. Niño, Sacred Heart Church, Heritage of Cebu Monument, Plaza Humabon, Plaza Independencia and Plaza Sugbo.

The museums are Casa Gorordo Museum, Cathedral Museum of Cebu, Fort San Pedro, Yap-Sandiego Ancestral House, Museo Sugbo, University of Southern Philippines Foundation's Rizal Museum, Museum Parian sa Sugbo, Sacred Heart Alternative Gallery, Cebu Normal University Museum and the recently reopened Cebu City Museum.

Too little time

But one night is not enough to visit all 18 sites.

Fred. Lipayo Palengo, artistic director of the University of the Philippines' Students' Theater Arts Guild for Education, said it would be better if the heritage tour was extended to three nights so more people could visit the other sites and watch the cultural shows.

Gotis said the program was designed as a one-night event only.

"The goal is creating ideas you feel that you are not satisfied with just one night because it encourages you to visit the museums on other days and participate in follow-up events," she said.

HOT mess the rain could dampen the spirit of Gabii sa Kabilin participants. From the Cathedral Museum, people ride "tartanilla" to go to Fort San Pedro, which was built at the start of the Spanish colonization in Cebu. EDDIE CASTRONUEVO JR./STAR FILE

Chronicles of the guerrilla war in Negros Occidental

By Carla P. Gomez
Bacolod City

NOW it can be told how the Negrosanon and Ilonganon fought against the Japanese forces in the 1940s.

The stories of treasure and heroism, opportunism and self-abnegation, defiance and submission in Negros from 1941 to 1945 are brought back to life in a two-volume book written by a Negrosanon historian.

"Against the Rising Sun" chronicles the guerrilla war on Negros—linked against the Japanese forces from 1941 to 1945. The book was launched on May 20, which coincided with the anniversary of the landing of the Japanese forces in Negros Occidental in 1942.

Author Modesto Delacio Salamero sets his book as the product of a 30-year research, including traveling to the United States states to go over some declassified documents in the US military archives and libraries in Washington.

Salamero, 73, has published 13 books and is considered the leading history writer in Negros Occidental. He chairs the Negros Historical Foundation Inc.

In 2009, he was conferred the Knighthood of the Equestrian Order of Pope St. Sylvester with the rank of Commander and Gene Model—the oldest and most prized of Papal Awards—for his work in the Diocese of Bacolod especially in his various writings on the history of the Catholic Church.

For the book "Against the Rising Sun," he went trekked down and interviewed over 100 people—many veterans of the war here and abroad. He also went over at least 600 documents.

The result is a comprehensive and well-documented book on what happened during World War II in Negros Island.

He says does not only include data from his researches but also reports the personal recollections of the war as well as written and oral testimonies of men and women who lived through that conflict.

The book also tries to provide a broad view of the political and economic situation on the island just before the outbreak of the war, its effects on the evacuation that ensued and after the fraction of the province and the Philippines acted in their aid.

A perennial source of controversy for the book is its identification of Filipino spies during the era.

He says also identifies many prominent Filipinos who were victims of the indiscriminate abductions and killing by Japanese intelligence units.

"Against the Rising Sun" also contributes some existing historical claims unknown evidence.

Some writers claimed that the Japanese surrendered on Sept. 11, 1945 but according to Salamero it happened on Aug. 31, 1945.

He also denies claims by some writers that there was heavy fighting in Negros when the Japanese arrived in 1942.

Other writers had ignored the role of the guerrillas in fighting the Japanese in Negros by saying that credit to the American when the Filipino fighters had already played a major role even before the landing of the American in Negros. They also ignored the efforts of the guerrillas against the civilians, which he included in the book," says he says.

The book also described how those in power used their positions and wealth to exploit the war to their benefit and also discussed "wild antics" in the military during that time.

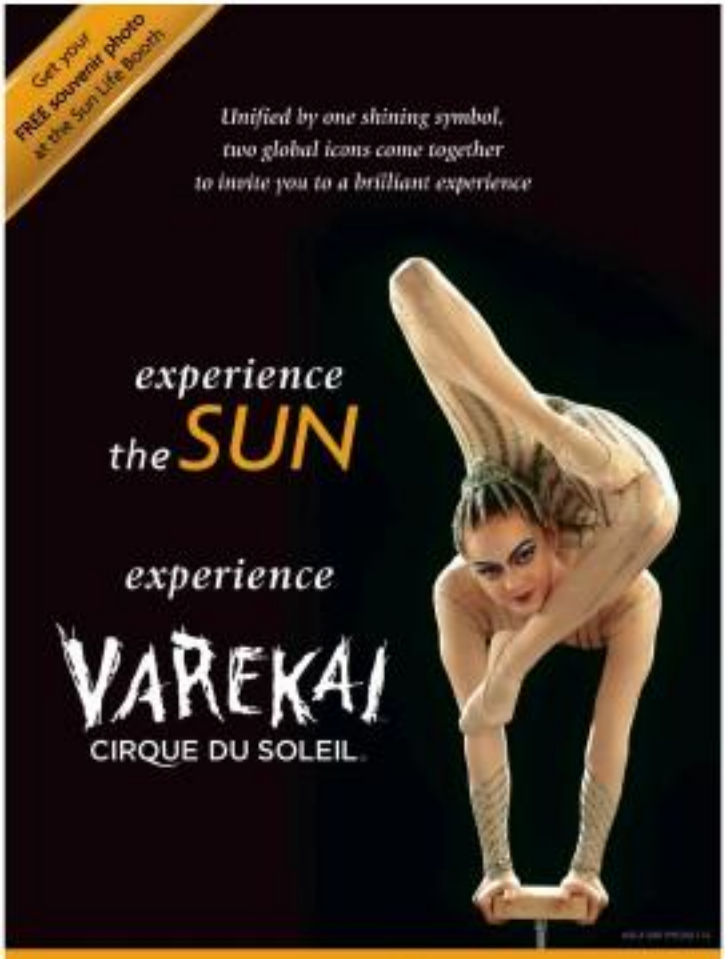
Salamero doesn't mind the controversy that may be generated because of what he wrote.

"The truth had to be told especially on the collaboration of some top Filipino government officials, and the abandonment of guerrillas in looting, stealing and executing of their enemies," he says.

"DREAM BIG," says President Aquino (center) while posing with business-minded multisectoral and foreign volunteers to set up a "business ecosystem" at the Gawad Kalinga Center for Social Innovation in Barangay Enchanted, Angat, Bulacan, yesterday morning, on Friday. (MALACAÑANG PHOTO)

ENCHANTING President Aquino whispers to a woman as he tours the Wet Bamboo Pillbox during the launch of the Gawad Kalinga Center for Social Innovation at Enchanted Farm in Barangay Encanto, Angat, Bulacan, on Friday. Behind is GK founder Tony Meloto. (MALACAÑANG PHOTO)

Enchanted Farm draws int'l youth volunteers



Visit the *Sun Life Booth* for your free *Varekai*-themed souvenir photo.

Drop by on June 24 and 25, 2011 for a chance to experience Paris.

Life's brighter under the sun.

Sun Life Financial

A proud sponsor of the Varekai Touring Show

From page A1

Social Innovation in the country, a venture that pursues the "best and brightest" to become young entrepreneurs.

Real 'bayanihan'

They are housed in one community, the idea being to mix teams with raw materials and opportunities for any successful business. Needed only are creative minds and a solid-natured (but reborn to stay poor At) in other GK endeavors, the ultimate goal is to empower the Filipino and eliminate poverty.

"This is the real bayanihan, what the public-private partnership is really all about," said Antonio Meloto, GK founder and chair.

President Aquino yesterday inaugurated the Enchanted Farm, urging the youth to "dream big," one that would go beyond merely finding employment later on.

Investor confidence

"Don't be afraid to dream. Your government is behind, always ready to support you. It is here to ensure that all your effort and hard work won't be wasted, that Philippine won't go bankrupt," he said in Filipino in his speech.

The President added that with the growing investor confidence in the Philippine economy, "there's nothing wrong with starting, be it in one's own backyard or even a multinational company."

Even with no direct contribution to the GK project, Mr. Aquino was optimistic that it could accomplish its goal to encourage half a million Filipinos to become "social entrepreneurs" in the next five years.

Volunteerism

The President thanked Gawad Kalinga for nurturing the idea of bayanihan, the state concept of volunteerism that won the people the past presidential election.

"It is this same volunteerism that is nurturing our campaign toward better governance, the volunteerism that I seek and drive against deeply embedded systems of corruption," the President said.

Mr. Aquino answered that the government was partial to individuals or groups whose sole interest in dealing with government is to help the people.

National movement

Gawad Kalinga, according to a Malacañang press statement, has become a movement of nation-building because of its courage to care and its ability to inspire greatness in every Filipino. Its objective is to bring the Philippines out of poverty by 2024 with a simple catchcan. Said for the landless, homes for the homeless and food for the hungry.

What started in Bagong Silang in Caloocan City has now spawned over 2,000 communities nationwide with support on the lives of one million of the poorest Filipinos, and it is now being adopted as a global template by other nations like Indonesia, Cambodia and Papua New Guinea, the Palace said.

Mr. Aquino's caption apparently is the "inspirational" irony Filipinos got since he replaced Former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, whose Administration was marred by allegations of corruption.

"We only do we have a trusted President, but also have a competent Cabinet," Meloto said.

'Happy Green'

The Center for Social Innovation seeks to build a "culture of entrepreneurship" among the youth. GK communities like the one in Barangay Encanto serve as "production and distribution cobil-outs for globally competitive Filipino brands."

Meloto said his group plans to establish such centers in every province in the country.

So far, the centers, a list of 20 projects and services, such as "Happy Green," which develops "native, healthy and unique home-to-market beverages with grassroots communities."

Other brands include Thao & Philo (chocolate bar), Gumamela Neon (dairy products), Sawsawan at Asim (condiments), Bed Carpet (furnishings), Blue Bamboo (bamboo products) and Greenworth Garden (cosmetics).

Editor Teddyboy S. Molavedra
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

SPORTS

Kobe visits Manila again July 13

By Steve Silva, Contributor

LOS ANGELES Lakers superstar Kobe Bryant will return to Manila for the third time on July 13 to kick off his three-city Asian Tour, Nike Philippines announced yesterday.

Bryant, arguably the biggest name in the NBA today will make Manila his first Asian stop before proceeding to Seoul and three cities in China.

"Nike is proud to bring Kobe Bryant back to Manila," said Mac Dalupan, Nike Philippines country marketing manager.

"In his last two visits, Kobe was able to connect with a lot of young Filipino athletes, encouraging them to fulfill their dreams through sports like he did."

As in his first two visits, Bryant and his small entourage are expected to fly to Manila in a private jet.

His one-day visit will begin with a meet-and-greet at Nike Park at The Fort at 5 p.m. on July 13, with the main event scheduled at 8 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

The Big Dome program will see players from the Jimer Gilas national team as well as Nike-sponsored UAAP teams De La Salle University, La Salle and Ateneo joining Bryant in skills drills.

Tickets to the two activities will be distributed free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis at Nike Park and Titus sports shops at The Fort at 12 noon on July 2. Only two tickets will be given per person.

Bryant fans can also tune in to 89ers 89.9 and Wave 89.1 to win tickets.

"As part of our commitment to basketball and young athletes, Nike continuously developing top-caliber flat will encourage them to reach for their sports dreams," said Dalupan.

MVP MIT This is mine

NBA stars to be invited for Gilas' Fiba tuneup

By Jane Manaro

MIAMI—The Jimmy Gilas national team has committed to European training in Portugal and Turkey next month in favor of training camp against a team of NBA stars.

The Dalupan, who are preparing for the 25-for Asia Championship in September, will meet actual invitation to the NBA stars to play at least two games in Manila, according to head coach Sigie Tuvera.

Tuvera declined to name the NBA players the Sacramento Basketball sig Filipino intends to invite for the lineups. He said the MVP plan has a big chance of playing the night of the five of the impending lockout between the NBA and its players' union after June 30.

NBA MVP Derrick Rose of the Chicago Bulls, two-time scoring champion Kevin Durant of Oklahoma Thunder and rookie of the Year Blake Griffin of the Los Angeles Clippers will be invited to come to Manila, according to a highly placed team source.

There also would have a team together with Philadelphia's Andre Iguodala, Sacramento Kevin Ervin, Heros Dalusan of the Illinois Heat and Shane Battier's Kevin Love, the NBA's rebounding king, and play against the Gilas Pilipinas squad early on July 11 to 17.

The source said SBP officials have been teaming the lines to coordinate with All-Star Chito Victolero.

Victolero was recently in the United States with PLDT Smart chief Manny V. Pangilinan, Talk 'N' Text coach Chot Reyes and Smart coach Jamil Mahdi Gregorio.

"We decided to skip the training in Europe because some of the players are (playing) in the PBA (Governor's Cup) while some are in Asiad," said Tuvera.

"We'll probably play an NBA selection but I still don't know who the players will be."

Jimmy Gilas was supposed to train in Lisbon and finished against European club teams ahead of the Asian championship in Wuhan, China, on sept. 15 to 25.

Meanwhile, Manny Lassiter flew back to Orlando yesterday so that doctors can diagnose the pain in his knee he suffered while training with the rest of the national basketball.

Lassiter collapsed on the floor during practice. Team therapist Albert Bolo said Lassiter complained of pain in his knee but took pains to assure that could take at least two weeks to heal.

Jimmy Gilas, which survived the perennial Asian powerhouse, was still playing host Indonesia at press time.

Rain or Shine whips Petron; Ginebra wins

By Marvin R. Castillo

RAIN OR Shine whipped up a storm of its own that even its coach never saw coming.

Like Tropical Storm "Falcon" that battered the metropolis last night, the Elasto Painters pulled Petron Blaze from the second quarter on for an easy 113-83 victory that got Rain or Shine back in track in the 35th Governors' Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

"This is totally unexpected," coach Yeng Guiao said during the customary winning coach's interview. "We did not expect to win this easy. We thought that it would be a hard battle all the way to the endgame."

Rain or Shine fired torrent 34 points, 21 rebounds and eight assists, with half of his total production coming in the second period where the Painters pulled away and caught the Boosters —and import Jeremy Pilon—in their worst loss. It was the Nuke or Shine fans knew most one-sided win.

Carlo Sharma completed his first PBA career-triple double with 18 points, 13 rebounds and 14 assists late in the night as Barangay Ginebra doubled Barako Bull, 97-81.

The Gin Kings broke away in the second quarter and never looked back as they improved to 2-1 in the Philippine Cup.

Alex Tallo 'N Text notes nine shots at the top.

"They [Boosters] haven't lost with their new import," Guiao said. "Our import played his best game so far and we probably played our best game all season!"

Rain or Shine rose to 3-1 and hopes believe that has signed in semi-finals contention as of now being a place in the six-team semifinal round.

Petron after a two-game winning streak came to crash and dropped to 2-2.

PETRON'S Jeremy Pilon soars for a header off Rain Or Shine standing guard Arwind Santos (left) and Gabe Norwood. AUGUSTO VICTORIA

Manila guns for top spot vs Alabang

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THREE-PEAT seeking Manila wins to move in on Bo No. 1 spot and the twice-to-beat bonus that goes with it when the Gladiz Asturias host Alabang today in the Racquet Philippines Inc. Field parade grounds in Putatan.

Cebu also wins to cement its hold of the No. 2 spot against Dumaguete in the other game.

The Cebu Dolphins, champions in the last two series, were leading the Tigers, 8-4, when rains halted their match in the fifth inning last May 8 at the Rizal Memorial ballpark.

Organizers were hoping the rains brought in Tropical Storm "Falcon" would subside yesterday so the pitch will be playable.

Manila only needs a victory to formally clinch top spot and set up a clash with the No. 4 team in the semifinals, where they will be seeking a series-to-beat advantage.

The Dolphins, winners of games 2 and 4 titles, can also cement the twice-to-beat bonus against the No. 3 team in the semifinals with another victory.

Cebu, however, will take top spot if it wins against Dumaguete in the 1 p.m. game and Manila loses to Alabang on account of rain-halted match.

Pinoy golf fans have another Day to remember

SOUTHPAWSTORY

Pinoy
D. Delfin

SAUSALITO, Calif.—Not only has Aaron Day sparked the recent upswing in television viewing among Filipino-American golf fans.

The 23-year-old golfer of Australian and Filipino parentage has aroused up their interest in the Pinoy golf scene here from sending fans to 10 o'clock tee-off times in front of the television set to the golfing season only on.

With five more majors scheduled on network TV, the eyes of the subscribed national will be upon Day, who lighted up the TV screens last Thursday when he finished runner-up to Fellow neighborhood, 22-year-old Rory McIlroy of Ireland in the US Open.

Not only has Day, whose mom Deanna hails from Pangasinan, posted his best finish in a major to move up the 4th to a major 24th ended up second to 30-year-old Good Schoolmate at the US Masters last April. He also jumped nine spots to land number 9 in the world golf ranking with earnings of about $7.3 million.

Including British Open champion Louis Oosthuizen, Invariably's conqueror and defending PGA Championship winner Martin Kaymer of Germany have each proven that are not mere flashes but are future superstars.

One of the year's most notable performances belongs to Day a golf pro since 2008 who won his first PGA Tour event, the Byron Nelson Championship in 2008.

He finished 68th in the same tournament this year and he was able to be the Players Championship and tied for ninth in the Memorial Tournament before his sudden surge—three back-to-back runner-up finishes in the first two majors of 2011, the Masters and the Open.

If Day's fairy-tale forays in golf's greatest stages are any indication, he will be a top talent for a long while. And to think that before this year's Masters, he told Alfred Dunning he'd be happy if he survived the cut at Augusta National.

Day and other young guns, including Australian Jason Day, Korean Kim Kyung-tae and Filipino-American Tiger Woods, have made golf more exciting than ever.

Mallboy—the youngest US Open champion in 90 years, Schwartzel of Stevenage, South Africa, and Day of Queensland, Australia, lead a new generation of twenty-something golf stars set to carry on the baton from the elders—the likes of Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, Lee Westwood, Jim Furyk, and others.

Golf's spotlight has fallen on McIlroy, who made the game look easy on the US Open and Schwartzel, winner of the Masters green jacket after Rory's classic meltdown previously at Augusta National.

But Day and other young guns

INCAA DONATES Fr. Victor Calvo Jr., OP (center), of Letran College, which this morning received two checks—for the 4th National Collegiate Athletic Association—worth over P100,000 in basketball, goodies and cash to Dr. Alfonso Lorenzo (right), campus school director of University of Perpetual Help System Dalta—Las Piñas, and UPHSD president Anthony Tamayo as part of its Community Outreach Program during the league's recent basketball tilts at the UPHSD Alabang gym. The donations will be handed over to the UPHSD-Executive School of the Philippines Sector 10 Community Center Bibliotheca in Muntinlupa City. The NCAA opens on July 2 with the basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

RACING
BY TOP CHOICE
Jo San Luccan LP

Roger whips foe; wild card shocks Li Na

LONDON—Roger Federer hammered Adrian Mannarino so badly in a 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 romp on Thursday that the Wimbledon crowd began to root for the curvy little guy, not rather than their beloved six-time champion.

Like a rabbit caught in the Centre Court floodlights, the World No. 55 was given a human beating by the Swiss maestro in a one-sided contest.

Federer, who last month 2002 runner-up David Nalbandian, was forced to wait around all day after the earlier two Centre Court matches went the distance and he was in no mood to waste any more time in his first ever match under the tarnished roof. He raced into a 5-0 lead in the first two sets with the crowd taking increasingly gaily on the left-handed Frenchman, who had no legs on his unimpressive shirt and was often fond his serves into the net.

The ever diplomatic Federer did not mind the crowd urging on the underdog.

"The atmosphere was fantastic," the third seed told reporters. "It's unusual, it's very nice to play indoors for the first time. I've played 19 years on Centre Court."

Such was the ease of the encounter that Federer began to drop his guard and a bogey roar went up when Mannarino sent a superb returning passing shot hurtling past the Swiss on his way to the fourth game.

The biggest surprise of the young tennis career came only a short time before Federer played when French Open champion Li Na was eliminated by German wild card Sabine Lisicki, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4.

The only Chinese player ever to win a major title wasted two match points before losing.

"Nothing wrong," said Li, recounting her match against the German ranked 42nd.

Fifth seeded and two time French Open runner-up Robin Soderling also won on Centre Court, surviving a five set tie against 2003 Wimbledon champion Lleyton Hewitt, 6-7 (5), 3-6, 7-5, 6-4, 6-4.

Serena Williams again struggled early, but eventually held on to beat Romanian teenager Simona Halep, 3-6, 6-2, 6-1.

On Friday, defending champion Rafael Nadal is scheduled to play on Court 1 along with five-time titlist Venus Williams and Elena Baltacha. On Centre Court, Andy Murray is in line for Lipstick in the last match.

Reuters, AP

GLEEFUL Lisicki celebrates her upset victory against Li Na. AP

Huey, African partner fail to advance

TREAT HUEY and South African partner Rik Van der Merwe dropped a close 7-5, 7-6 (7-4) decision to their seeded foes in the first round of men's doubles Thursday night at Wimbledon.

The 20-year-old Filipino Davis Cup campaigner and Merwe made the main draw through the qualifying round but faced 11th seeds Wesley Moodie of South Africa and Dick Norman of Belgium in Court 8 of the All England Lawn Tennis Club.

Prior to the grandslam meeting, Huey and Merwe finished runners-up in the Nottingham Challenger, a Wimbledon tune-up events on grass, after they lost to Rik de Voest of South Africa and Adil Shamasdin of Canada, 6-3, 7-6 (11-9).

Another Filipino, Jason Patrombon, is slated to begin his campaign in the singles on Sunday. He will also see action in doubles in tandem with Jaden Delaney of New Zealand.

Patrombon, named to the Davis Cup pool for the tie against New Zealand early next month, fanned in the first round of the Aegon junior championships in Roehampton.

Playing the first round match without having to practice on grasscourts due to inclement weather in England, the 18-year-old Batrombon yielded to Evgeny Kirdyrkov of Russia, 7-5, 7-5.

Carol Mamuli, the country's playing team captain, is hoping for more wins in Philippine as part of Mario Thompson's encouragement. Thompson is set to play Laura Robson of Great Britain in the second round. Mary Anthony Reyes

BUOY Fernandez is leaving Portland, his home of three years.

Laguna, Cebu boost Liga Pilipinas bids

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Laguna Golden Lions arrived inside of their title hopes by stopping the MP Warriors of General Santos City, 89-81, in the MBC Liga Pilipinas Conference 'O' General Santos City leg Thursday night at the GMP Sports Complex.

Trailing by six, 47-53, the Golden Lions of Sen. Gil Garcia and coach Philip Cezar turned in their defense in the final period, limiting the Warriors of Rep. Manny Pacquiao and coach Arvin Bendoso to only eight points while outscoring 22 markers.

Nine rotom Edwin Bunsi excelled on both ends of the floor as he scattered eight points to go with seven rebounds. The Golden Lions' victory was marred by a skirmish between EJ Feihl and Jaro Alfad after a rebound play resulting in both players ejections.

Delbert Isaac led the way for the Golden Lions with 13 points on top of nine rebounds. Glenn Bolawan also added 13.

Louie Melulla was the only Warrior in twin digits with 18 markers as the whole squad struggled.

Earlier, Cebu Lumberjacks' Mark Maycon plunked down four three-pointers to back by edging the Bacoor Bay City Tigers, 66-64.

Making up for his scoreless performance the other day, Antel Capao exploded for 20 points, 19 rebounds, four assists and four steals to make up for the absence of injured team leader Mark Magumbohol.

The Tigers are facing the possibility of not qualifying for next month's Super Leg unless they seal their current skid...four straight losses and 2005 overall in 14 games.

JUNIOR WORLD SENDOFF Philippine Airlines president Jimmy Bautista (center in blue shirt) joins officials of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines and pageboys who will tap out the Philippines in the Junior World championships and two other major events in the United States in a sendoff ceremony recently at the Ayala Greenfield Golf and Country Club in Calamba, Laguna. With them are JGFP chair Gerry Ocampo and vice president Bobby Soo.

Mavs trade two draft picks for Fernandez

DALLAS—The Dallas Mavericks reportedly pushing up to dotted their 30th slot, trading both their draft picks Thursday to get Spanish guard Rudy Fernandez from the Portland Trail Blazers.

Team officials could not name the acquired player because their wife waiting for the league to make it official. A news conference was expected Friday.

Fernandez couldn't wait. He tweeted: "Thanks all Mavs fans for so support this 3 years!! Im happy to be in the best team in the nba !!Adelante!!"

Fernandez has spent his three NBA seasons at Portland since arriving from Juventus Badalona in the Spanish league. Only 26, he's also been a standout in international play. He could step in as Dallas' starting shooting guard.

"We're in a playoff championship mode now," said Dirk Nowitzki, the Mavericks' president of basketball operations. "We think the player we acquired is going to help us move that ball pick would."

Fernandez has averaged 9.1 points over 24.1 minutes in 218 games. AP

NCR hosts Shell chess opening leg

THE SEARCH for future chess stars resumes next month when the Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship (Shell Active Chess) kicks off its 2011 season with a five-leg regional eliminations.

The Mindanao Event Center in Davao City's Ecoland will host the first leg on July 1 and 3 for the National Capital Region leg. The circuit then goes up north to Tagaytay on the Southern Luzon leg on July 23 and 24 at the Robinsons Mall.

Batangas will host the third leg on Aug. 13 and 14, the Southern Luzon will be held Aug. 27 and 28 in SM Davao for the Mindanao leg and the circuit winds up on Sept. 10 and 11 in SM Cebu for the Visayas leg.

Shell Active Chess has produced players such as GMs Wesley So, Mark Paragua and Darwin Laylo.

Registration forms are available at shell.com.ph/shell_chess and at selected schools, chess clubs and municipal/provincial government offices. Fee is pegged at P300 with the field limited to 500 participants on a first come, first serve basis.

For inquiries, call Rico Ilarina at 09122928013 or 9003340.

Bad weather postpones Manila Int'l Marathon

THE 12,000 between Filipino and Ethiopian marathoners have to wait for three more months as the Manila International Marathon (MIM) slated Sunday is moved to Sept. 18 due to inclement weather.

Organizer Dino Aton said that with the rains showing no sign of let up, they can't assure the safety of runners and the field wouldn't be badly decimated.

"The route is worse-friendly but the weather would take its toll at the times of the runners," Aton said.

The MIM aims to erase the 29 year old record set by back-to-back Olympic marathon (1972 Montreal and 1980 Moscow) champion Waldemar Cierpinski of East Germany.

Runners are advised to keep their numbers and singlets as the same will be used when the revival of the country's first international marathon and first member of the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS) finally pushes through.

Developments will be posted at manilainternationalmarathon.com.

Lincecum stars in Giants victory

SAN FRANCISCO—San Francisco Giants ace Tim Lincecum struck out 12 batters in a dominant outing to give the defending World Series champions a 2-1 victory over the Minnesota Twins on Thursday.

Lincecum allowed three hits and walked two batters in seven innings of work on route to his five win since May 27.

"I always wondered if I throw a pitch, what's going to happen if I leave it over the middle," said Lincecum.

San Francisco opened the scoring in a second inning in which Pablo Sandoval hit a lead-off single and the Brandt followed with a double. Sandoval then scored on a ground ball off the bat of Miguel Tejada. Cody Ross drove in what would prove to be the winning run when he singled to center field, scoring Aubrey Huff, who had led off the eighth with a double. Reuters

LINCECUM

PH football renaissance feeding off Azkals' rise

THE NATIONAL's team has also faced the Japanese, 1-0, at the 1958 Asian Games in Tokyo. Southpaw Vic Sison is in front row at center while Ed Olivarez, also a former Mr. Football who later moved to basketball and became a private guard, stands at left.

By Frenchie TJ. Ochoa

VIC SISON has seen all of this happen before.

In one time, Philippine football was actually relevant, and winnable even in international levels. In that if it had never lost its foothold in the country's sporting scheme of things, the news features and well-loved tabloids would be exclusive havens at best.

Sison was the goalkeeper of the last national squad that earned bragging rights in Asian soccer.

The year was 1958, when the third Asian Games was held in Tokyo. The country's football squad, gentlemen's story from being labeled Azkals, marched straight into the belly of the beast and beat Japan, 1-0.

Of course, that then was not Japan now to "beat" could be slightly misleading it. But Japan football now (since to more to that game.

"Losing to the Philippines was really tough for [the Japanese]," Sison told the reporter. "In the local Japanese paper, the words written had headlines that suggested that the Japanese players returned here tips."

Sison smiled at the recollection.

Strangely enough, that game became a turning point for both countries in the football arena, with the Philippines and Japan [illegible] the order of the sport's spectrum as it was that makes the result of that match a source of wonder and even nostalgia.

While Japan no reasons not to pause to mark the top of the Asian scene, the Philippines spiraled downwards as time went, Nihal victory becomes its unique memorial.

This is why Sison's perspective is important.

The man has seen Philippine football plunge to heart-rending depths. And he says the rise of these Azkals is a new beginning for the sport.

"It's a matter of not repeating the mistakes of the past," said Sison.

When the composition of Asian is viewed home, there were media reports of their bravery, but none like the one the Azkals receive when they come home from victories abroad. There was no parade of sponsors that rushed to open their checkbooks to the team.

"The media did not really follow up on the sport that much," Sison recalled. "And we were not given allowances, not even money for travels to practices."

PH football's lack of funding

While Japan was bringing the J.League, putting football on every newspaper, the Nihonzaki and Brazilians to play the Philippine football leadership was making strange decisions that kicked off the sport's downfall. And it did not help that the lack of funding drove some of the sport's biggest names away.

Sison, a 5th Football awardee of the Philippine Sportswriters Association, was only 22 when he quit the national team. He was not yet even at the prime of his athletic career.

He wasn't about to leaving the squad either.

Ed Olivarez and Eddie Pellicer, both Mr. Football honorees as well, lobbied the squad to play commercial basketball, where club teams were paying their players allowances.

And the dwindle increased.

The national football team was clubbed right to the next Asian Games in Indonesia. The squad was losing games by big margins. And football, as Sison knew it, was starting to disappear.

"Media coverage started to dwindle," said Sison, who cited the death of Pinky Linares, a former football manager who later edited the sports section of the Manila Times, as a turning point in football coverage in the country. Tony Siddayao, who would become the "dean" of local sportswriting, shortly got sucked in to basketball.

But even then, football hadn't really crashed to rock-bottom yet.

Officials' curious decisions

While play was deteriorating on the field and the sport's coverage was diminishing, off the field, the powers that be were making curious decisions that would totally tie up funding for the sport and turn off potential players for the National squad.

Sison's images of football may be as grainy as the black-and-white photos he still has in his possession.

But when he ponders a question, he looks at his old photographs and begins retelling stories of the sport's glory days, the pastimes in his mind begin churning out, and he says that this didn't happened yesterday.

"The leading members of the Philippine team quit," he said. "I got married already and I had to support a family. There was nothing in football. No reason to."

But was the Azkals before Dan Palami came around to resuscitate the squad.

From the confines of the summer capital, Sison watched football. Besides, Terma were getting beaten up internationally by big margins. In the 1962 Asiad in Jakarta, the competition was so bad hoped he could stay in before rolling 8 guns, the national boxers got clobbered.

Filipino-Chinese talents

Dating that time, the sport was churning talents from the Filipino-Chinese community through commercial leagues like the Manila Football League. From 2004 to 1974, under the presidency of Dominador Claudio, the football association (then known as the PAA) appointed Fernando Alvarez as secretary general.

Alvarez implemented the 60-40 rule in football, which meant that all teams in leagues under the auspices of the PFA had to have 60 pureblood Filipino players and 40 percent limits.

"That's about using the Chinese community," Sison said. "And immediately there were no sponsors or patronage to Philippine football as the Chinese community."

Sison got a first-hand taste of that pessimism.

SISON: Lack of funds, officials' curious decisions drove the biggest names away

A former Mr. Football traces the roots of the sport's heart-rending decline and sees in the Azkals a new beginning for a forgotten game

In 1956, Wilfrido Gonzalez, a shipping magnate from Cebu City, organized the national squad that'd they would do well against the visiting Swedish All-Football Club (the Philippines then still hosted high-level international travellers in a game he sponsored, he would want the hostess to Japan for a whole month).

The Nihonzaki lost a competitive match to what was one of the toughest European clubs there, 2-1. And as these Chinaphine kept his promise, forwarding P120,000 into a trip that helped set up their victory over Japan in the 1958 Asiad.

"Today based on the poso-dollar exchange rate, that would cost about P6 million," Sison said.

The Chinese community was always ready to pitch in money for football. When the 60-40 rule was introduced, sponsors shied away and the leagues funded mostly by the Chinese community started dwindling.

By the time Johnny Romualdez assumed the presidency and Sison had contributed the modest Philippine Football Federation to fill the info, it was too late.

"Football went down so much," said Sison. "Players left abandoned. They were poor and ashamed. Funding was drying up. Interest was drying up. The media was disinterested."

Rizal Memorial attraction

Sison also lamented a move by athletics to stop using the Rizal Memorial Stadium.

"There was no longer that physical attraction that young talents would look forward to playing in comedies, something that would represent that they had arrived and reached," Sison said.

"The Rizal Memorial Stadium gave young footballers something to aspire for. And with the transfer to different fields, [athletics] took away more."

And the international bookings kept coming. The national squad kept suffering from foreign scores black and blue. As football descended to the top of people's sporting priorities, football was pushed into dark corners. And when it did come out, it was mostly to bask in the light of leadership controversies.

Because there were no drawing basketball's case to prominence, it was easy to pre-date football's path. It was promising straight into a spectacular crash, merely providing those implementation would crash the life out of hope of their people by ruled business in the Olympics.

But something happened to football on its way to a third end. Something crowded from out of nowhere to ignite a renaissance of sorts.

Football panic called it hope. Sison called it the revival.

The suddenly interested media picked up a cacophony from Internet fans and popularized its now-famous label: The Azkals.

FAST FORWARD: The Azkals celebrate with manager Dan Palami and other team officials after qualifying for the group stages of the Asian Football Confederation's AFC Challenge Cup in Myanmar in March. The Azkals earlier made it to the semifinals of the Southeast Asian Games in the Cup, for the first time by beating host Vietnam and drawing with Singapore, coinciding the first of this sport's rise in the country

PNSA targets first-ever Olympic gold

Eastwood City

The best things in life are here

Explore a City that Excites All Your Senses.

Experience it all. Every exciting, exhilarating, extraordinary thing the good life has to offer. Eastwood City.

See each day with new eyes. Your city is brought to life by the most colorful attractions—from a chic mall, stylish hotel and alfresco leisure strips to a lush open park with lagoon.

Hear the festive sounds of the coolest afterhour parties and concerts.

Taste delicious creations from top chefs in a dazzling dining scene.

Feel the non-stop energy of a 24x7 cyber park. And breathe easy at the end of the day, when your journey around the city leads you home to Eastwood LeGrand, the hottest address in town.

At Eastwood City, where everything thrills your senses, life just keeps getting better.

THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE COME TOGETHER AT EASTWOOD CITY!

- Luxury condos in the three towers of Eastwood LeGrand, located at the new residential block in Palm District
- The Eastwood Mall with four levels of shops, restaurants, cafés and cinemas
- Eastwood Park, a landscaped outdoor setting that hosts a variety of events
- Upscale accommodations and lifestyle comforts at the Eastwood Richmonde Hotel
- Alfresco dining at City Walk 1 and 2
- A fully wired cyber park hosting top BPO and IT companies
- A convenient shuttle and a City Inn bus service with routes to McKinley Hill in Taguig City and Newport City in Pasay City

Visit us at the Grand Showroom located at 188 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-4), Quezon City

Or call (632) 421-4243 or 421-4247 • www.eastwood-properties.com

Eastwood Property Holdings, Inc.
A Megaworld Company

Developed by
MEGAWORLD

Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

'Rains not only to blame for flooding'

MMDA cites clogged drainages, unfinished road work, diggings as causes

By Tina G. Santos, Nitz Cubcub, Jeannette Andrade and Jocelyn R. Uy

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) attributed the widespread flooding in Metro Manila on Thursday, which caused heavy traffic and left hundreds of people stranded, to the volume of rain spawned by Tropical Storm "Falcon," clogged drainage systems and unfinished road repairs and diggings.

In an attempt to decongest traffic leading to traffic-heavy C-5 Road and the Southern Luzon Expressway, the MMDA was chastised with homeowners of Magallanes Village in Makati City who agreed to open their roads to motorists starting at 7 p.m. yesterday, but only for a limited period of time, according to MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino.

MMDA said the amount of rainfall brought by Falcon was greater than what Metro Manila's drainage system could accommodate.

He added that many of the open waterways in the metropolis are clogged with tons of garbage.

"We have a 500-kilometer waterway in Metro Manila, but 95 percent of that cannot be overhaul by our equipment because of obstructions, like houses of informal settlers," Tolentino said.

Lawyer Emerson Carlos, the MMDA's technical general manager for operations, added that along with flood victims to make thoroughfares, badly or grounded traffic lights caused the metropolis also aggravated the traffic situation on Thursday.

The MMDA on Friday deployed additional 350 volunteers to manage traffic and assist in evacuation of residents in flood-prone areas in the metropolis, particularly in Marikina City and the Cubao-to-Commonwealth-to-Batasan-Fairview-to-Montalban area.

Around 700 families in Marikina City have left their homes near the Marikina River, fearing a repeat of the floods in 2009 brought about by Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

The city government of Marikina raised the alert level to third alarm around 4:30 p.m. on Friday when the water of the Marikina River rose to 17 meters, 1 meter below the river's 18-meter critical level.

Meanwhile, in Makati City, around 20 families, including 60 children, were evacuated from Barangay Bangkal and are moved to Bangkal Elementary School operated by city council workers and barangay officials.

Homeowner Vicky Mangahinang said her neighbors stood by the bridge to check if it was time for her and her family to evacuate.

"I am worried because I have five small children and we have no way to go to the roof," she said.

In Manila, the muddy downpour on Thursday night prompted 12 families from the Bocaue Compound in Tondo to flee to higher ground as a safety precaution.

PO1 Joel Cubildoz, of MPD Jones Lanu Tondo Station said the families returned to their homes before noon yesterday when floodwaters subsided.

The chaotic scene of the Archdiocese of Manila counselor mobilized its network organization to visit flooded re-

MARC ACC

Carpenter builds homes, new lives through volunteer work

By Nina Calleja

JOSEPH mornings before he goes to work, 37-year-old Cedilyn Grefol neatly tucks in his grey undershirt and wears his white cap with pride.

A carpenter, Grefol proudly admits that he is a survivor of two big events in his life: Typhoon Ondoy in 2009 which left him with tragic memories, and his old drinker's mindset.

Grefol, known to his neighborhood of Barangay Wawgis in Marikina City as "Bisaya Cachi" earlier, only could now admit he was an alcoholic.

The carpenter had been drinking for the past 40 years, drinking three to four days in a week since he was 15-year-old teenager.

"I would drink through the night, then sleep. I'd wake up to drink again," he said.

His drinking problem often led to arguments between him and his only daughter Cesarine, now 29 and married.

Cesarine recounted a night when she was still toddler, her father ate drunk he had to drop inside a tricycle.

"That he would call hug me and not leave me alone," Cesarine said.

Grefol was a jack-of-all trades, but he would lose out job after another because of his addiction. The difficult part was in between when he was jobless and consequently penniless.

Before he became a carpenter, Grefol was once a tricycle driver, a construction worker, a gravedigger and chicken vendor.

Once literally unmoored, he took out his tricycle to look for passengers.

"The tricycle crashed into a concrete post. I got fired afterwards because the passenger told my boss I was asleep while driving," he said.

His love for alcohol did not diminish even when his wife died of heart attack in 2007.

Things only changed for Grefol after that fateful day of Sept. 26, 2009, when Ondoy unleashed floodwaters that ravaged most homes not only in Marikina but in most parts of Metro Manila.

Reminders of that grim day—friends and his losing love and house—still haunt him.

At the height of the flood, Grefol stood on his neighbor's roof, surveying the chaos below. floodwaters enveloping from the Nangka Sitio and submerging his memories, memory by memory.

He had saved nothing except the clothes on him.

During the interview, Cesarine was crying, as their hurt was discussed and framing she her. "He haven't bought a new stove or rice cooker," she said.

"Morning pa nga. Parang gusto nanaw magpakamatay sa October 26 is indeed a blessing. We felt thankful for what Daddy had done," he said with a chuckle.

Without Ondoy, Grefol said he would not have been able to know about the Tzu Chi Foundation, a relief organization, and be part of it. More important, he would not have been able to abandon his long time vice.

A few days after the flood subsided, Tzu Chi volunteers came to their area with a simple instruction to the residents. They would receive P400 a day if they would clean up their own house and help the others do the same.

The carpenter immediately signed up for the job, and used the money he earned to buy new clothes and other basic necessities.

But his carelessness did not end that week. He was hired by Tzu Chi to do carpentry work in a city housing project for P350 a day.

"At first, I thought it was just an ordinary job. But as the days passed, I felt a sense of happiness helping the group," he said.

Then, the unusual happened. He gave up his nightly drinking sessions to be could be up and about the following day to devote more of his time for the foundation. On his rest days, he played basketball or hiked around the city to weed off daughter of going back to his drinking habit.

"I realized how important my body was and what I could do with it," he said, apart from doing carpentry on weekdays, Grefol volunteers to work on relief activities and house construction in various depressed communities every Sunday.

Grefol said he derives fulfillment from building a house. "I keep thinking that four of five people will soon be living there and that their lives would improve."

His goal now is to earn money so he can repay his small house before another big typhoon hits the city.

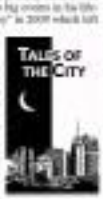
For Grefol, Tzu Chi was heaven-sent.

One of the largest volunteer-based non-government organizations in Asia founded by Buddhist nun Cheng Yen in Taiwan, it services outreach programs and builds hospitals, houses and schools for the poor and disaster victims.

It forbids, among other things, smoking, betting, smoking, gambling and drinking alcohol.

"It seemed my father took those precepts to heart," Cesarine said.

WITH only daughter Cesarine: Before he became a carpenter, Grefol was a tricycle driver, construction worker, gravedigger and a chicken vendor. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Filipino slaves in Saudi

THE 41 FILIPINOMADE, through the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), keeps allowing the deployment of domestic helpers to Saudi Arabia.

This is like sending our compatriots to work as slaves in that Middle Eastern country where many people suffer from torture, rape and other evil indignities.

The recognition of some Saudi employers considers not to address the foreigners who work for them.

Especially prone to maltreatment are household workers.

Almost every day, people come to me or my office in Baliwag Inquirer (BIR), 999 like on the 4th board complaining that their relatives, who work as domestics, are being maltreated by their Saudi employers.

Many Filipinos in Saudi Arabia who have been repatriated through the help of Public Inquirer's "Bantilong Ito Ang Tulo" program tell stories of being humiliated by their foreign employers.

Married Belen and Marlyn Cabanes (for example) have come all over their bodies, a result of the humiliation they suffered in the hands of a Saudi couple.

The two women described their stint in the Saudi household as "hellish."

They were told that they were not broken up, stabbed with pointed objects or clubbed in the head by the couple. Their employers were a police general.

A third Saudi wife, once subjected to their wives, resulting in painful blood sores.

Belen and Cabanes have not received their wages.

What why does the POEA still allow the deployment of Filipinos maids to Saudi Arabia when it is known that they are likely to become slaves whose masters have the power of life and death over them?

Here we lose our dignity as a people that we allow our compatriots to become slaves in a foreign country?

* * *

Virginia Torres, President Noy's discovery buddy, is back as chief of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) after a three-month suspension.

Torres was suspended by then Transportation Secretary Ping de Jesus for getting embroiled in a controversy involving Stradcom Corp., LTO's ICT service provider.

It is said that De Jesus resigned after the President refused to fire Torres over the Stradcom controversy.

Back at work, Torres told reporters...with a hint of pride: "There has been a lot of speculation that I would resign. Well, I am here now."

She could have said: "They CAN'T remove me because I have Pilosky on my backer."

She's right. The President chose her over the morally upright Ping de Jesus.

* * *

In Mass took a Philippine Airlines flight to Hong Kong for international airport to Shanghai recently.

When she arrived in Shanghai, she was shocked to find out that she lost $3,000 and included between her clothes after her luggage had been x-rayed upon at the Cebu airport.

The cute Mass was not the only victim of the thief as thieves at the Cebu airport climb in luggage section.

* * *

The Department of National Defense's government procurement, in Batasan province has partnered with an American company in manufacturing M-16 rifles for our troops.

The firm had been indicted by the US Security Department for alleged illegal arms trafficking.

The arrested also wants to join hands with a South Korean company release 6,500 signed automatic weapons courtesy in modification to the Gulf Schools of Medicine.

Why doesn't DND try out the weapons made by United Defense, a 100-percent Filipino-owned company, that makes M-16 rifles that are much better than their US counterparts?

Why can't our government trust a Filipino product?

BOOK AND BUY FOUR TICKETS AT THE NEW ENHANCED SURESEATS.COM

BUY YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE!

SureSeats members may now buy or reserve tickets by texting SureSeats to 2910 (Globe & Smart) Or log on to www.sureseats.com

Also available at our ticket booths:

GLORIETTA 4 • GREENBELT 1 & 3
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
MARKET! MARKET! • AYALA CENTER CEBU
TRINOMA • MARQUEE • ABREEZA

Rains ...

Front page 4 A12

ves in the capital to bring relief goods to affected residents, according to a Caritas executive director Antoni Pascual in a broadcast aired on the Catholic Church-run Radio Veritas yesterday.

Caritas has gathered relief goods since last month in preparation for the onset of the rainy and typhoon season through holding a second collection in the parish churches during Sunday Mass, said Pascual.

The rainy weather bureau said the heavy downpour was brought about by the southwest monsoon or habagat that was re-enforced to effect in Metro Manila the other night.

But while heavy rains brought floods and traffic jams in most parts of the Metro, residents of San Juan City celebrated on Friday the feast of their patron saint St. John the Baptist with the traditional fiesta filled with merriments and festivity.

Armed with pails, dippers and boats, people were seen standing on road corners waiting for passersby and motorists.

Al Jones Tolo, a street vendor, greeted the passing "The heavy rains mean a crop na. The fun has begun," he said.

Senegal drops charter-change law after protests

DAKAR, SENEGAL—Senegal's president agreed to cancel a proposed change to the constitution which would have paved the way for his son to take power, easing tensions over protests that mobilized the biggest challenge to his 11-year rule and threatened to derail a country known as one of the most stable in the region.

Angst boiled over Thursday morning as thousands of protestors attempted to rush the gates of parliament, where lawmakers were meeting to debate the law.

Clouds of tear gas enveloped the square, as police fought back the demonstrators with gas, rubber bullets and fists. Dozens were injured in the chaos.

Details of late gas canvassed the square, as police fought back the demonstrators with gas, rubber bullets and fists. Dozens were injured in the chaos.

The controversial amendment would have created the post of vice president, a departure from Senegal's European-style government, which has a president and a prime minister. The opposition charged that the position was being created so that President Abdoulaye Wade could maintain his

PROTESTERS against proposed constitutional changes flee as police fire tear gas in central Dakar, Senegal, on June 23. →

stranglehold on power, if the two were to win next year's election, it would put in place a mechanism for the son's succession.

The 85-year-old Wade has already faced struggling criticism for his decision to run for a third term, meaning the frail leader could rule into his 90s. It comes the specter that he could die in office. Under the current constitution, if that were to happen, the head of the national assembly would become president for a brief period before new elections are organized. If the new proposed deal goes is facilitated, the No. 2 would be the constitutional successor without a need for new elections.

As the protests intensified during the morning and early afternoon, the 150 members of parliament called for a recess. The ruling party, controls all but 10 seats in the national assembly, so the law should have been a done-in.

By afternoon, Senegal's capital was covered in a haze from the burning tires and fumes, including the home of one of Wade's former ministers, which was attacked by protesters and set alight, according to private radio station RFM. At least 157 people were injured in the day-long clash, the station reported.

Lawmakers began to scuffle by evening and Doudou Wade, the head of the majority in parliament informed that the deputies were not willing to sign off. "Senegal's pride is worth more than the toil of this law," he said addressing the floor. The prime minister Abdoul Mbaye and soon after, he rearranged to announce that the president had changed his mind.

"I informed the president of the republic and I shared with him your debate," Justice Minister Cheikh Tidiane Sy told the parliamentarians. "He took into consideration all of your concerns, especially those of the majority party. By tomorrow." The president has received messages from all over and especially from the religious chiefs, and in light of all that, the president of the republic asks that you cancel this proposed law," he said.

The parliament hall erupted in cheers, and as the news spread to the street, cars drove by honking loudly and demonstrators send out in victory. AP

Huge 7.4 quake rocks Alaskan islands

WASHINGTON—A powerful 7.4-magnitude earthquake struck Alaska's Aleutian Islands late Thursday and U.S. officials issued a localized tsunami warning over the remote island chain.

There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

A tsunami advisory issued by the US West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center (PCATWC) warned users to coastal residents to "move immediately inland to higher ground and away from all harbors and inlets as landing threats sheltered directly from the sea."

The quake on the Fox Islands—165 km east of the tiny fishing port of Atka—struck at 6:09 p.m. local time, the US Geological Survey said in a statement.

"Those living the north Alaska warning issued were evacuation or the water level rising or receding may have only a few minutes before the tsunami arrival and should move immediately," warned the PCATWC.

"Homes and small buildings are not designed to withstand tsunami impacts. Do not stay in these structures," officials advised.

The quake struck more than 1,000 km west of the nearest Alaskan city of Anchorage. AFP

BALGER on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list for his alleged role in 19 murders. →

FBI manhunt for mob legend ends after tip on companion

LOS ANGELES—Charles and Carol Stocks seemed to be just another boring, elderly couple enjoying retirement in a modest apartment building a few blocks from the Pacific in Santa Monica. He told a neighbor he had arrhythmia and spent his days lying on the couch watching television. Carol would venture out for occasional strolls on the nearby Third Street Promenade, sometimes going by the formerly Robert Mosher on bending a neighborhood strip on Ohio, in tagged along.

But they were always reclusive and a little cold, neighbors said. Charlie would often wave a baseball cap or helmet that shadowed his face. He would bark at neighbors when Carol lingered too long to speak to them, said one such neighbor, who asked not to be identified, reputedly.

Carol explained that he was suffering from dementia. So recent months, another neighbor said, a new wife hoped to find apartment door reading, "Please do not knock at her door."

But the couple rules led this quiet life in the 1,200-square-foot, two-bedroom apartment on the third floor of a drab apartment building for more than a decade were not who they said they were.

Charlie Stocks was one of the most notorious gangsters in America—James "Whitey" Bulger, once Boston's most notorious crime boss, a fixture on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list—and Carol Stocks, his friend, Catherine Greig, 60, a former dental hygienist. They fled Boston more than 16 years ago after Bulger, a longtime business informant, learned from his FBI agent that he was about to be arrested.

The manhunt—which had produced Hollywood Bulger sightings, rumors of his death and considerable embarrassment for the FBI—ended shortly after 8 p.m. on the Thursday when agents burst down one of the Stocks' semi off near a barber shop where he considered.

"I saw many people killed and injured. I went to one lay outside. The glass on his chest was broken and he was injured in his head, chest and head by the glass," said Ali, who drove his cousin to the hospital. AP

Investigators began to piece together Bulger's life in Santa Monica after finding a storage locker filled with clothes, jewelry and other items linked to the Stocks. Neighbors described the couple as reclusive, and they rarely had visitors.

Bulger was charged with 19 murders in connection with his role as the leader of the Winter Hill Gang, a violent Irish mob that operated in Boston in the 1970s and 1980s. He was also charged with racketeering, extortion, money laundering and weapons violations.

Bulger's longtime companion, Greig, was charged with harboring a fugitive. She was released from custody in 2013 after pleading guilty to lesser charges. AP

High court ends $89-M claim of ex-Playmate

WASHINGTON—The Supreme Court on Thursday ruled against the estate of Anna Nicole Smith in the latest chapter of her long-running legal soap opera about whether a Texas billionaire's alleged promise to give millions from his $1.6-billion estate to his young Playmate bride wrapped a will that left his fortune to her son.

The justices voted that a bankruptcy judge's decision giving millions to Smith from the estate of oil tycoon J. Howard Marshall was decided incorrectly because Orrin Judges did not have the constitutional right to enter a final judgment in such routine bankruptcy cases involving probate law.

Chief Justice John Roberts said in a 5-4 decision that the Conservative gives lifetime tenure to federal judges during good behavior and without reduction in salary.

Bankruptcy judges "enjoy neither tenure during good behavior nor salary protection," Roberts said. "We conclude that, although bankruptcy court judges in the statutory authority to enter judgments on Vickie's counterclaim, it lacked the constitutional authority to do so," Smith's and name was Vickie Lynn Marshall.

Federal bankruptcy judges are appointed and can be removed by judges on the US Appeals Court and their salaries are linked to that of federal judges. Bankruptcy judges serve 14-year terms.

The family of E. Pierce Marshall, son of J. Howard Marshall, contested the decision.

J. Howard's estates were always perfectly clear. He gave his son Kroke Smith approximately $8 million on gifts during his lifetime, and those gifts were all that he intended to give her," said Pierce

ANNA Nicole Smith in photo taken on Feb. 19, 2004 Archive

Brammell, the Marshall's lawyer.

The convoluted dispute over the elder Marshall's money has its roots in a Houston strip club where he met Smith. The two were wed in 1994 when he was 89 and she 26. Marshall died the next year and his will left his estate to his son and nothing to Smith.

Smith challenged the will, claiming that her husband promised to leave her more than $300 million when he cut her off from his checkbook two days before his death. The two were married in 1994 when he was 89 and she 26. Marshall died the next year and his will left his estate to his son and nothing to Smith.

Smith challenged the will, claiming that her husband promised to leave her more than $300 million when he cut her off from his checkbook two days before his death.

Smith moved to California after Marshall's death and described bankruptcy in Los Angeles, ruling in federal court filings that her husband promised her a huge share of the estate. A bankruptcy judge awarded her $475 million from Marshall's estate, with criminal judge reducing that amount in 2009 and in 2002.

Smith had wanted the courts to accept that ruling. But the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco appeals court threw the bankruptcy court ruling out, saying a bankruptcy judge could not rule on the probate case. AP

Global oil reserves tapped in effort to cut high gasoline prices

WASHINGTON—The United States and its allies will release 60 million barrels of emergency oil reserves to replace lost Libyan oil production and ensure adequate supplies for the summer, officials announced on Thursday.

The release will save US demand for Nigerian and Algerian light-sweet crude, which can go to the European market.

The measure also allows President Barack Obama to say that he is acting aggressively to deal with high gasoline prices as the summer driving season begins. Republicans have hammered him over high gas prices, recently criticizing their his politics limiting domestic oil drilling over oil fault.

An Obama administration official insisted that the release was not driven politics.

"This is about addressing supply disruptions and its potential impact on global economic growth, and that's the driving factor," the official said, insisting on anonymity to describe sensitive international discussions.

He said the release represents less than 3 percent of the nation's emergency oil reserves.

The action to take a response to market uncertainties following the June 8 meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, which failed to reach an agreement on increasing production quotas. After the meeting, Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf states pledged to pump as many as 1.5 million more barrels of crude per day to ease the stress on the global economy. But those countries lack the ability to provide sufficient supplies of the kind of high-quality crude that Libya currently exports.

News of the release sent oil prices sharply down on Thursday. West Texas Intermediate, the US benchmark crude, fell by $4.39 a barrel to $91.02. The European benchmark, Brent crude, fell by even more. AP/WSJ

Blasts rip through western Baghdad, killing 40

BAGHDAD—Four bombs ripped through Shiite neighborhoods in Baghdad Thursday evening, killing at least 40 people, in the worst violence the capital has seen in months, Iraqi officials said. An American civilian and specialist working to improve oil production efficiency were killed in a separate attack.

The violence underscored the fragile nature of the security gains in Iraq at a time when American forces are preparing to withdraw by the end of this year and the challenges facing the Iraqi Democratic government and American counterparts who would continue after the US military is gone.

The first three bombs went off in quick succession in a southwestern Baghdad neighborhood shortly after 7 p.m. One targeted a Shiite mosque, another exploded just outside a popular market, while the third went off inside the market where people were doing their evening shopping ahead of the Muslim weekend, Iraqi police officials said.

The officials said 36 people died and 82 others were injured in the three blasts. An official from Baghdad's Yarmouk hospital confirmed the casualty figures.

An Iraqi resident, Abu Ali, said he was about 200 meters away when one of the bombs went off near a barber shop where he considered.

"I saw many people killed and injured. I went to one lay outside. The glass on his chest was broken and he was injured in his head, chest and head by the glass," said Ali, who drove his cousin to the hospital. AP

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ibanez

Ukraine ex-premier Tymoshenko goes on trial

TYMOSHENKO makes the sign of the cross at the beginning of her court hearing in Kiev. —AP

KIEV—Ukraine's ex-prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko on Friday went on trial for alleged abuse of power, denouncing her rival President Viktor Yanukovych as a coward leading political competition.

The former premier, known as the "Iron Lady" in memory of abuse she endured in connection with a contract she signed with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin after a brief interruption of gas deliveries from Russia in early 2009.

"Yanukovych is a coward. He is afraid of political competition and opposition," Tymoshenko, wearing a cream-colored suit and sporting her trademark golden braid wrapped around her head, told reporters.

She described the process as a "kangaroo court" and "endless orchestrated by the authorities.

"Whatever verdict is handed down, it will be a verdict against Yanukovych and not me," said Tymoshenko as several thousand of her supporters rallied in the streets near the courthouse to extend her.

Many held white flags with red hearts, Tymoshenko's party symbol.

One of the leaders of the pro-Western Orange Revolution in 2004, Tymoshenko narrowly lost to her old rival Yanukovych in presidential elections last year, becoming his fiercest critic.

She is now the target of several investigations including for alleged corruption during her time as prime minister's budget of 1.5 billion hryvnia ($190 million) when she signed a new energy contract with Putin after a brief interruption of gas deliveries to 2009.

The dialogue rarely a witness of between seven and 10 years, jeopardizing Tymoshenko's ability to take part in parliamentary polls next year and the next presidential elections in 2015.

Tymoshenko, battling a cold, was allowed the courtroom to the cries of "Yulia, Yulia!" and applause from her supporters.

Known for her pendant for theatrics, she evaded herself before the beginning of the trial and took a copy of the constitution, a small prayer book and an icon-set of her handbag, posing them on the dock near her.

"This is a farce and circus and not a court hearing," Tymoshenko told the judge, before adding she wanted him to be removed.

"The court system has been prostituted by Yanukovych and his circle," she said, calling judge Rodion Kireev the "presidential administration's puppet."

Next to her was sitting her aide, sparrow-like in a white T-shirt emblazoned with the words "Freedom for political prisoners."

A European diplomat, present at the court, expressed skepticism over the fairness of the trial.

"The lawyers will do all they can but not like justice says in Europe," the diplomat told AFP on condition of anonymity.

The shaky courtroom was burning as the seams from the volume of journalists, supporters, some of dividend "Pharos, shouts on the entire Ukraine" demanding a bigger room.

"Yulia's voice is the voice of people," read one of the placards brandished by her supporters outside.

Dozens of police, some wearing anti-riot protective gear, ringed the courthouse.

Tymoshenko signed a pledge not to leave Kiev but has not been detained so far in the investigation.

However, several of her former top aides, including ex-interior minister Yury Lutsenko have been imprisoned in other investigations, prompting the United States to raise concern of "selective prosecution" in Ukraine. AFP

Cell phone links Bin Laden to Pakistan spies, US finds

ISLAMABAD—The cell phone of Osama bin Laden's trusted courier, recovered in the raid that killed both men in Pakistan last month, contained contacts to a militant group that is a longtime asset of Pakistan's intelligence agency, senior US officials who have been briefed on the findings say.

The discovery indicates that Bin Laden used the group, Harakat-ul-Mujahedeen, as part of his support network in the country, the officials said, but it also raised questions about whether the group and officials like it helped shelter and support Bin Laden on behalf of Pakistan's spy agency, given that it served it to operate in Pakistan for at least 20 years, the officials and analysts said.

In tracing the calls on the cell phone, US analysts have determined that Harakat commanders in the Pakistani city of Peshawar served as a conduit for Bin Laden's officials, the senior US officials said. One said they had met. The officials added that the contacts were not necessarily about Bin Laden and his protection and that there was no "smoking gun" that showed that Pakistani spy agency had promised Bin Laden.

But the cell-phone numbers provide one of the most intriguing leads yet in the hunt for the answer to an urgent and vexing question for Washington: How was it that Bin Laden was able to live comfortably for years in Abbottabad, a town dominated by the Pakistani military and only a short drive from Islamabad, the capital?

"It's a serious lead," said one US official, who has been briefed in broad terms on the cell-phone analysis. "It's an avenue we're investigating."

The revelations also provides a potentially critical piece of the puzzle about Bin Laden's secret odyssey after he slipped away from US forces in the Tora Bora region of Afghanistan nearly 10 years ago. It may help answer how and why Bin Laden or his protectors chose Abbottabad, where he was killed in a raid by a Navy SEAL team on May 2.

Harakat has especially deep roots in the area around Abbottabad, and the network provided the group would have enhanced Bin Laden's ability to live and function in Pakistan, analysts familiar with the group said. So leaders have strong ties with both al-Qaeda and Pakistani intelligence, and they can many widely because they are Pakistanis, something the foreigners who make up al-Qaeda's ranks cannot do.

Even today, the group's leader, Maulana Fazlur Rehman Khalil, has long said the Pakistani army is his "favorite institution," according to South Waziristan, where al-Qaida and other groups had been based for years. Harakat's network would have allowed Bin Laden to pass on instructions to al-Qaida members there and in other parts of Pakistan's tribal areas, use military messages, and money or even to take care of personnel matters, analysts and officials said.

Harakat is one of a host of militant groups set up in the 1980s and early '90s with the approval and assistance of Pakistan's premier spy agency, the Directorate for Inter-Services Intelligence, or ISI, to fight as proxies in Afghanistan, initially against the Soviets, or against India in the disputed territory of Kashmir. Like many groups, it has splintered and renamed itself, and because of their overlapping names, other groups could have been involved in supporting Bin Laden, too, officials and analysts said. But Harakat, they said, has been a favored tool of the ISI.

Harakat "is one of the oldest and closest allies of al-Qaida, and they are very, very close to the ISI," said Bruce O. Riedel, a former CIA officer and the author of "Deadly Embrace: Pakistan, America, and the Future of the Global Jihad."

"The question of ISI and Pakistani Army complicity in Bin Laden's hideout now hangs like a dark cloud over the entire relationship" between Pakistan and the United States, Riedel added.

Indeed, suspicions abound that the ISI or parts of it sought to hide Bin Laden, perhaps to keep him as an eventual bargaining chip, or to ensure that billions of dollars in US military aid would flow to Pakistan as long as Bin Laden was alive.

Both the chair of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Mich., and the panel's ranking Democrat, Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger of Maryland, said this month that they believed some members of the ISI or the Pakistani Army, either retired or on active duty, were involved in harboring Bin Laden.

Bin Laden himself had a long history with the ISI, dating to the mujahedin insurgency that the Americans and Pakistanis supported against the Soviets in Afghanistan in the 1980s. New York Times News Service

Petraeus says Afghan pullout beyond what he advised

WASHINGTON—Gen. David H. Petraeus, the top US commander in Afghanistan, said on Thursday that President Barack Obama's troop withdrawal plan for drawing down forces there was "more aggressive" than he had recommended and increased the risk that the military would not meet its goals.

But Petraeus, prepared for his personal views on a broader basis during on his nomination as director of central intelligence, said the president had to consider many factors beyond the battlefield and that he fully accepted Obama's plan. It would bring home 33,000 troops by September 2012 and withdraw the remaining 68,000 by the end of 2014.

"There are broader considerations beyond those just of a military commander," Petraeus told the Senate Intelligence Committee. "The commander in chief has decided, and it is clear the responsibility, needless to say, of those in uniform is salute smartly and to do everything humanly possible to succeed in it."

He said he had received some e-mails supporting that he resign if he disagreed with the president's decision, which would require troops to depart by the middle of next year's fighting season.

"I'm not a quitter," he said, noting that the troops under his command do not have the option of walking off the job, and that a general should take such steps only as a "dire" situation.

The generally consensus reduced those sunday in the day of Adm. Mike Mullen, chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, about the military's preference for a slower withdrawal. But Mullen added, "No commander ever wants to sacrifice fighting power in the middle of a war."

Several of those Hillary Rodham Clinton, who other officials said had also expressed concern about the speed of the withdrawal, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Obama's decision had left "room" to every extent to rebuild the nation within the national security cause" to which "people forthrightly preserved their own views." New York Times News Service

SM Supermalls' Green Retail Agenda For 2011: Empowerment By Sustainability

Government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, environmental advocates, and business leaders recently gathered together for the SM Supermalls' Green Retail Agenda conference at the SMX Convention Center. SMX in Pasay. Empowerment by Sustainability. The one-day conference highlighted SM's initiatives as a steward of the environment, and emphasized the social, economic, and environmental benefits of Green Retail.

As businesses look to embrace an efficient green future in their operations, SM Prime Holdings leads the way with its annual Green Retail Agenda. As part of the SM Cares program, the Green Retail Agenda helps SM tenants and consumers start taking the initiative to incorporate their businesses through discussions on trends, corporate policies, and energy efficient practices.

The event began with a Keynote Message by DENR Secretary Ramon Paje, as well as Inspirational Talk by US Ambassador Harry Thomas; and an introduction to the SM Supermalls Environmental and a speech by Vice Chairman Hans Sy. Guests of honor in attendance by Mike Felipe Bonoli, Chief Executive of SMX and VP for the Environment of the PCCI. SM Supermalls President Annie S. Garcia welcomed the guests and participants while Ms. Hans Sy gave an introduction to the AWP on the SM Supermalls Environmental Program and Green Retail Design.

The first batch of speakers, the World Bank's Mark Pinsky and Ambassador Harry Thomas, Pauline Angeles of Prestige Function ACB emphasized the benefits in a collective approach to responsible business development and operations with their respective talks on Green Procurement, Employee Engagement, and Sustainable Work, Productivity and Sustainability.

The afternoon session were equally environmentally conscious as Ms. Ma. Victoria Aguinaldo shared the vision on the latest trends and innovations in the management of wellness, healthy and sustainable facilities, which had the Real Deals Farm's Jacquelyn Ramos, Philippine Green Building Council's Jon Rendon, Philippine Institute of Pediatric Dentistry's Dr. Bernadette Sinnadjan talk about Sustainability Your Competitive Advantage, and PCCI/PIDS's Jose Ateneo speak about Competitive Functionality.

Mr. Ambassador Stephen Lillie of the United Kingdom later delivered an Inspirational Message and introduced the course on Sustainable Design and Engineering Practices. The Ambassador then delivered his talk by Architect Raymund Gil - Lim, DLAP, and Environment Innovative Information Technology by Lance Dyonisio Cervera Manager Maria Victoria Agustin, Creative Lab who got to know more about Sustainable solutions through Maurice Managing Director Vivek Samtani, who spoke about Cutting Down on Direct Emissions through Sustainable Transportation, and Dennis AVP and Head of Customer Solutions Engineering Collective who gave a talk on Induction technology.

As an inspiring end to the conference, three environmental champions gave talks on Best Practices. These included Nasna Fernandez of Bags to Riches on Best Social Entrepreneurship, as well as Administrative Officer of Philippines (DSE) Cathy Hinkson and Mr. Daniel Gundelach of the DSE.

This is the fourth year of the Green Retail Agenda, the first two conferences were held in 2008 and 2009 to introduce the concept of Green Design and Architecture, Green Buildings, Green Malls, and Green Communities. The third conference was held in 2010 to discuss the Green Retail Agenda and Green Retail Design.

SM Prime Holdings President Hans T. Sy and US Ambassador to the Philippines Harry Thomas together with SMIC President Annie S. Garcia and SMIP Executive Vice Director at the Green Retail Agenda 2011, themed Empowerment by Sustainability.

President of SM Prime Holdings Hans T. Sy with Mayor of Puerto Princesa Edward Hagedorn

SM Prime Holdings President Hans T. Sy with DENR Secretary Ramon Paje

Ayala Land Regional CEO of LEED AP and SM VP for Design Felino Garcia

Hans T. Sy of SM Prime Holdings gives shower of appreciation on CEO of LEED AP Amy Felipe Gozon

US Ambassador to the Philippines Stephen Lillie and Annie Miguel Cabal

Editor Raul O. Pascolo • Assistant Editor Cornie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Gov't aims for investment-grade mark by '13

Officials take heart from Fitch Ratings upgrade

By Bonnie Pet Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT took heart from the recent debt rating upgrade from Fitch Ratings and had its sights on acquiring an investment-grade badge by 2013.

"We hope to [an investment grade] in the last half of the regular administration's term, Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima told reporters.

Fitch Ratings raised the country's long-term foreign currency debt to a notch just below investment grade, citing "progress on fiscal consolidation against a track record of macro-stabilizing broadly favorable economic prospects and strengthening external finances."

Purisima expressed confidence of achieving the good trend on various aspects of the domestic economy.

"For one, the macroeconomic environment is well-managed," he said. "Looking at the progress of efforts on fiscal consolidation, we can recognize that the Philippines do, so we an investment grade rating."

With regard to reducing the budget deficit to 3.5 percent of gross domestic product, or P300 billion this year, the government has so far shown a surplus of P61 billion as of the end of April.

Purisima said that in terms of the ratio of debt to GDP (gross domestic product or the total output of the domestic economy), the level has gone down to 51.2 percent based on 2010 figures.

"If we turn off the fiscal tap, the Treasury's fiscal cooking level, the ratio would be 40 percent, which is comparable to that of neighboring countries," he said.

He was referring to a minimum fund that the BTr is required to maintain as a guarantee that it would pay off debts that are about to mature.

Also, the finance chief said the foreign exchange component of government debt had substantially gone down to less than 30 percent of GDP from a peak of 103 percent.

Purisima said foreign borrowings still account for a quarter of total borrowings in 2011.

"Our goal is to bring it to around 20 percent by the end of President Aquino's term," he said.

In a statement, Budget Secretary Florencio B. Abad said last Thursday's credit upgrade by Fitch would allow the government better access to more affordable financing with better terms.

"This would allow us to further reduce the burden of interest payments on national coffers and free up funds for productive projects," Abad said.

"Also, the increased confidence in our macroeconomic fundamentals helps us attract more direct investments and business activity," he added.

INDICATORS

Share prices surge

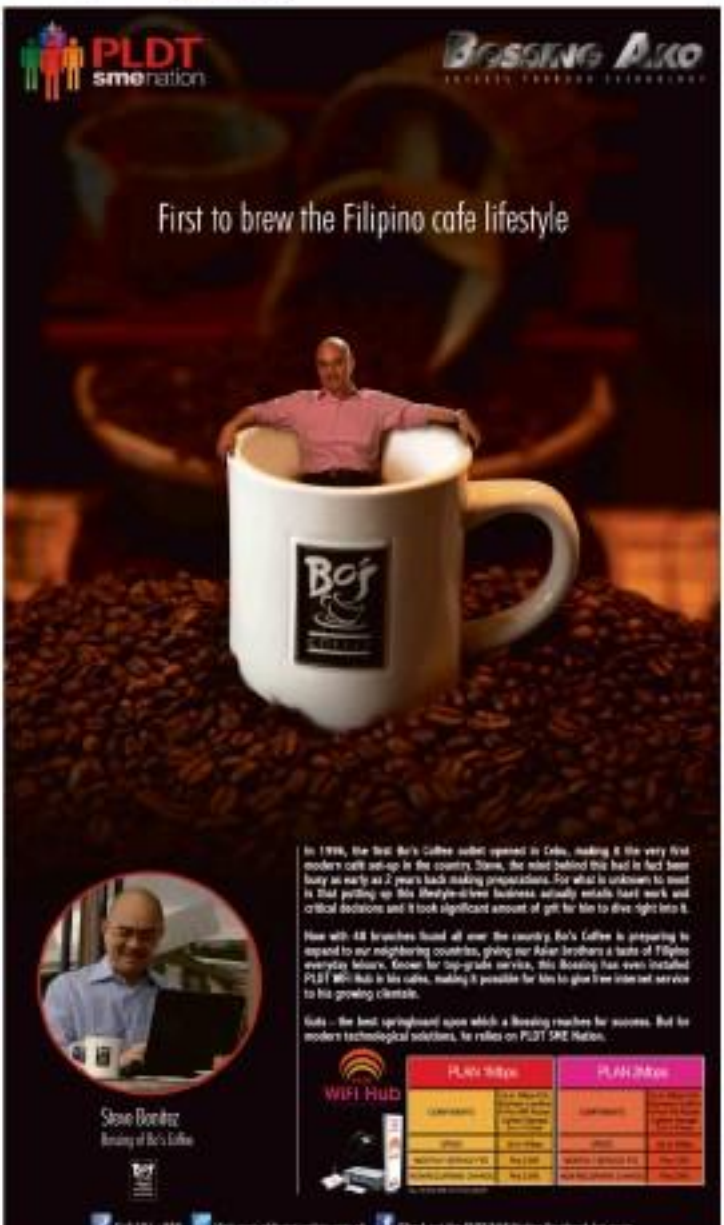
GAINS PEGGED [illegible] on [illegible] as investors welcomed an impending resolution of Greece's fiscal crisis.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index jumped by 50.30 points, or 1.15 percent, to finish at 4,391.34 [illegible]

But Greece had agreed to the five-year austerity plan the five-square-dollar had set as a precondition for a bailout package.

All country shares up, led by the [illegible] [illegible] which [illegible] 3.4 per-

details B2



IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Atlas buys out** partners in Carmen Copper /B2
■ **JFC moves to ensure** profit in '11 /B2
■ **Rural banks free** to increase branches, BSP says /B3
■ **Electricity users face** additional charges /B8

Power Situation Outlook
for Saturday, 25 June 2011

	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
[illegible]	1,888	1,712	1,302
[illegible]	6,240	1,215	1,120
[illegible]	1,660	416	320

Atlas buys out partners in Carmen Copper

Raising funds to cover $368M acquisition cost

By Rica T. Ochoa-Ibe

ATLAS CONSOLIDATED Mining and Development Corp. yesterday said it would buy out its Singapore-based partners in Carmen Copper Corp. for $368 million to fully own the undivided operation of the Toledo mine in central Cebu.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Atlas said it would raise $300 million through a combination of debt and equity investments to finance the acquisition of the combined 43.34 percent stake of Canop Atlas Corp. and Canop Atlas B.V. in CCC.

Part of the funds to be raised would be used as general working capital of CCC, which holds exclusive right over mineral reserves in the 1,674-hectare Toledo copper mine complex.

Atlas said the acquisition of the shares, which would make it 100 percent owner of CCC, was already approved by its board. Both Canop Atlas Corp. and Canop Atlas B.V. are units of Carnegie Asia Special Opportunities Portfolio (Canop) of Singapore.

In connection with the capital raising, Atlas' board of directors appointed BDO Capital and Investment Corp. and Investcom Partners as financial advisers and managers.

The structure of the capital raising, however, will be determined next week. Also, the details of the acquisition and capital raising will be explained to Atlas stockholders in a meeting next week.

Atlas also said the PSE had granted its request for suspension of the trading of its shares from Friday to resume on June 27.

The stock gained more than 19 percent this week, and hit a four-year high of P23.15 on Thursday.

The trading suspension will enable Atlas to provide its stockholders and the investing public more opportunity to scrutinize the details of the transaction.

In the first quarter of 2011, Atlas reported that its consolidated net income grew 3.7 times, driven mainly by the performance of CCC. Its consolidated profit rose to P1.338 billion from P353 million in the comparative period in 2010.

CCC reported a net income of P1.272 billion in the first quarter of 2011, which Atlas said was nearly 5.2 times the net income reported in the same period last year. With a report from Reuters

JFC moves to ensure profit in '11

By Paolo C. Montecillo

JOLLIBEE FOODS Corp. (JFC) is trying to prove its value this year through the aggressive expansion of its operations to offset the significant increase in the cost of some materials that threatens to curb full-year profit.

Officials on Friday said profit this year were to be behind targets, despite a more than 10-percent growth in gross earnings. In the first quarter of the year, JFC's net profit fell 6.6 percent, although sales rose by 14 percent.

"The second quarter is looking better than the first. We are hoping that continues until the end of the year," JFC chief finance officer Edmund Rey said.

"Our actual performance is still below target because of the increase in the costs of raw materials, particularly poultry, rice, sugar and flour," Reyes said.

Sales growth has also been below expectations following a drop in consumer confidence due to higher fuel prices. Cities in the Middle East and Japan have also weighed down on remittance-driven spending in Philippine consumers.

Reyes said the company's goal now is to post higher profit or at least match 2010 levels this year, hoping its operations will benefit from the economy's improving economic prospects and the resumption of its network of stores.

JFC also hopes that the prices of raw materials will stabilize by the fourth quarter of the year.

JFC operates in the country through five "quick-service restaurant" brands, namely, Jollibee, Greenwich, Chowking, Red Ribbon and its recent acquisition, Mang Inasal.

Its second biggest market is China, where JFC is present through two brands, namely Yonghe King and Hong Zhuang.

"We're still hoping for a better profit performance this year," JFC chair and founder Tony Tan Caktiong told reporters at the sidelines of the firm's annual shareholders' meeting.

JFC added 1,083 with 2,316 stores around the world, up by 231 percent from the year before. It reported 2010 profit hit P1.2 billion, up by 20.5 percent.

Fitch upgrades credit ratings of 2 local banks

By Michelle V. Rosca

FITCH RATINGS has upgraded the credit ratings of Bank of the Philippine Islands and state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines, expressing optimism on the capability of the two financial institutions to remain sound and stable.

In the view of BPI, Fitch raised the ratings for the bank's long-term, foreign currency-denominated debt from five notches to just one notch below investment grade, or from BB to BB+.

BPI's rating for its long-term, peso-denominated debt was increased from a notch below investment grade to investment grade, or from BB+ to BBB-.

Fitch assigned a "stable" outlook to BPI's ratings, which means it will remain the same for at least one year.

In the case of DBP, Fitch raised the ratings for the bank's long-term, foreign currency-denominated debt from two notches to just a notch below investment grade, or from BB to BB+.

The rating for DBP's long-term, peso-denominated debts remained at a notch below investment grade, or BB+.

DBP's ratings were also given a "stable" outlook.

Rating for foreign debt indicates an institution's perceived ability to pay its liabilities denominated in foreign currencies. On the other hand, rating for local debt shows perceived ability to pay debts denominated in local currency.

The move of Fitch to upgrade the ratings of BPI and DBP came a day after it announced the upgrade of the Philippine government's ratings by a notch.

The government's foreign debt rating with Fitch is now just a notch below investment grade, or BB+, while that for its local debt rating is now at investment grade of BBB-.

Fitch cited the country's improving economy and budget situation for the upgrade of the sovereign rating.

Disclosures

VISTA LAND & Lifescapes Inc. reported buying back 203,000 of its shares at P3.15 per share; 160,000 shares at P3.16; and 200,000 shares at P3.17 on June 23, in line with its share buyback program.

METROPAC Securities Corp. disclosed on June 13 the resignation of Felipe N. Ysmael Jr. as the company's assistant corporate secretary, effective immediately.

• • •

ABS-CBN Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 12 at 2 p.m. at the Session Hall Room, Mezzanie Lo Mabuhi, Mabuhi City. Stockholders of record as of June 13 are entitled to notice of and vote at the meeting.

• • •

APEX Mining Co., Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 14 at 3 p.m. at the Iloilo Business Exchange Center, Mezzanine Floor, Business Park, Iloilo City. Stockholders of record as of June 17 are entitled to notice of and vote at the meeting.

Compiled by Marinell Medina, Digest-ist Research

Exchange readies listing framework for petroleum, clean energy firms

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK Exchange aims to outline listing and reporting requirements for petroleum and renewable energy (RE) companies with the issuance of a new listing and disclosure framework rules for the first time in the country.

In a memorandum posted on Friday, PSE granted counsel Josefin Reyes and the PSE board had approved for public comment the proposed framework, which was drafted in collaboration with the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In general, petroleum and RE companies intending to debut on the PSE should comply with the general requirements for the second board listing and with the proposed supplemental foreign and disclosure requirements applicable to petroleum and RE companies.

The PSE's second board requires an operating history of one year, which is less stringent than the five-year track record required for those listing on the main board. Upon listing, the applicants must have a market capitalization of at least P250 million.

The sector-specific framework requires that petroleum, RE and mining resource companies, particularly those in the early stages of exploration and development, first obtain reasonable assurance from the DOE on their intent for listing. The listing of a petroleum or RE company is more complex in the Philippines than in Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia and Canada, necessitating the flow of funds for the exploration and development of Philippine natural resources, the PSE said.

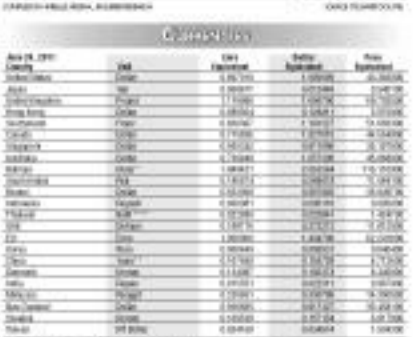
At the same time, the PSE recognized that local investors had limited ability to invest in and help develop natural resources in the Philippines because of the lack of listed natural resource companies.

This deficiency seriously impedes the growth and development of the country. In these times of rising energy and commodity costs and global instability, a key to national security is our nation, especially a developing nation such as the Philippines, is the ability to explore and develop its natural resources internally with low reliance on the global or outside market," said the PSE draft, which will be open to public feedback until June 30.

Drawing from regulations imposed by local and foreign regulators, on petroleum and RE companies, the PSE proposed that at a minimum, the listing applicant must demonstrate that:

• It is either an operator or a co-venturer in company that holds adequate interest in a service contract with the government or a co-venturer with all of the other co-venturer, of a valid and subsisting service/operating contract duly approved and awarded by the DOE.

• It should submit the required documents for petroleum and RE companies in addition to the regular documentary requirements of the PSE covering an initial public offering or a listing by way of introduction, whichever the case may be, under the second board listing rules of the exchange.



Rural banks free to increase branches, BSP says

Move seen to increase lending to micro ventures

By Michelle V. Ramos

RURAL BANKS, which provide basic financial services in the countryside, are now allowed to put up more branches in Metro Manila.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said in a circular that rural banks may now put up more than two branch in Metro Manila, as long as they engage in microfinance and meet the required regularization.

The circular said that a rural bank must have a capital base of P100 million to be allowed to put up additional branches in Metro Manila.

The move to relax branch restrictions is expected to help spur lending to micro enterprises, which are believed to significantly aid in poverty-reduction efforts if given sufficient government support.

While micro loans have been made accessible to some provinces, more financial services are not as widely available in Metro Manila.

The country's capital is home to universal and commercial banks, but these do not really cater to micro enterprises.

The move of the BSP to relax rules on branching by rural banks is part of its thrust to liberalize banking laws.

Earlier this month, the BSP issued a circular allowing universal and commercial banks to put up more than ten satellite offices in Metro Manila.

These new rules include Makati, Mandaluyong, Manila, Muntinlupa, Pasig, Pasay and San Juan.

Bank branching was previously restricted in these cities since regulators deemed that there were already too many banks in these areas.

The BSP reasonably lifted the restrictions, saying that the growing economy has led to an increase in demand for banking services.

"The (BSP) are expecting that liberalization of bank branching will help improve the competitive environment, and this should translate to better financial services to the public," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said earlier.

Structure follows strategy

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

ON THE front page of Inquirer's June 18 issue, Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcalá sets up a straw man: "The Department of Agriculture (DA) alone cannot achieve its goals of food security for Filipinos. That is why we are ready and willing to listen to our farmers, suppliers and the private sector, because only public-private partnerships will help serve them best."

However, if the opposite operating structure does not follow strategy, that strategy may fail.

At the Agriculture and Fisheries 2020 (AF 2020) Food Summit held last Feb. 16-17, a structural misfit revealed.

Private sector structure

AF 2020 had several working groups. The groups and their respective coordinators are the following: Rice and Feed Cereals, Sustain Soybean and Technology Volumes (Feed Assn); Poultry and Livestock, United Broiler Farmers Association president Gregorio San Diego; Fisheries, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center Aquaculture Department; Food and Agriculture, Philfoods chairman Robert Aseron; Computer Science, University of Asia and the Pacific; Agribusiness Center executive director Bernardo Ity; and Cross-Cutting Issues (such as credit, ULIT investment, International trade and rural women empowerment), Partners Agriculture Inventory Consultants.

AF 2020 will reconvene six months after its initial Feb. 16 conference to assess its performance.

But since AF 2020 was a tripartite conference convened by the legislature (Senate and House), executive branch (DA) and the private sector (farmers and fisherfolk, as well as agribusiness), the private sector recommended an interim meeting, which was conducted last May 25.

Inquirer's report

Both of the six agricultural subsectors reported on progress made in the first three months. However, while some subsectors showed significant progress, others did not. The main reason why either sector succeeded is that the government did not provide the same level of commitment and action as that shown in other subsectors. In these lagging subsectors, no government effort was made responsible, so there was no pressure on the government side to perform. In addition, some of those subsectors carried out their briefings in clash of progress to the disappointment of the private sector.

To prepare for the Aug. 11 AF 2020 review, it is important that an appropriate public-private structure for each of the six sub-sectors be established to make AF 2020 strategy a reality. Just as the private sector has identified an accountable counterpart for each subsector, the government should do the same.

An assistant secretary or a DA director should be identified as the main person responsible for each subsector's success. Since there is an each person, there is a lack of focus and pressure to perform on the government side. The chain of lack-of-action group should

COMMENTARY

be from the government-side director-level should be the identified private sector coordinator.

The first task that has not yet been completed is to have the structure review, monitor and evaluate each of the recommended actions of the AF 2020 Conference. Priorities should therefore jointly determined and decisive actions taken.

Model to follow

The most impressive example I have seen in public-private governance was the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Anti-Smuggling (COC). On the government side, it was composed of Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes as the chair, and four key officials from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Industry, Finance, and Justice.

On the private sector side, it was composed of The Alyansa Agribuhayan for agriculture, and the Federation of Philippine Industries for industry. Responsibilities were determined for each participant, with the law Secretary Reyes as the chief person accountable for overall performance.

The group jointly planned, implemented and monitored the anti-smuggling program with governmental and private sector assignments. To ensure progress, meetings were held every two weeks. The government was always in charge. It was the only time that an anti-smuggling effort obtained some success. Perhaps because of this, the Cross was abolished.

Food security is more important than fighting smuggling. We should therefore fully support Secretary Alcala in that wish. AF 2020 subsector will show the same commitment as COC(s). While the recommended public-private structure following the AF 2020 meeting, we can look forward to a successful Aug. 11 follow-up conference.

But without the appropriate structure, the strategy for food security will become more elusive than reality.

(The author is chair of Agri-watch, former secretary for presidential flagship programs and projects, and former undersecretary for Agriculture and Trade and Industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatch_phil@yahoo.com or telephone (632) 8922132)

BPO sector pulled in $2.65B in Q1

SOME $2.65 billion in foreign exchange from transactions related to the business process outsourcing sector flowed to the Philippines in the first quarter, up by 19 percent from the $2.24 billion recorded in the same period last year.

These BPO-related transactions involve computer and information services, as well as professional and technical services.

The robust growth of the BPO sector is credited to the increase in the competitive skills of Filipinos, lower cost of Filipino labor and the dire need of foreign firms to cut costs.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said that despite the substantial growth of the BPO sector over the last 14 years, the industry is poised to grow even more over the medium to long-term.

The current basic and specialized promotion of the Philippines as a good provider of BPO services and further education of Filipino workers on the requirements of the sector would help the country grow into more resources.

"The industry's competitive advantage could further be enhanced through initiatives on educational reform and improved international visibility," the BSP said in its report.

The BPO sector has been driving the growth of the country's overall services sector, which in turn helped lessen economic growth during the latest global crisis.

The growth of the services sector during the recent global financial crisis, which peaked in 2009, other the decline in the revenue performance of the manufacturing sector.

Foreign exchange inflows from BPO-related transactions, together with remittances from overseas Filipinos and foreign portfolio investments, have helped beef up the country's total reserves of foreign currencies, which are expected to hit at least $70 billion by the end of the year. Michelle V. Ramos

Nuclear study may be put on hold

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy is reconsidering its planned P100-million nuclear safety study this year, in light of the extensive damage caused by an 8.9-magnitude earthquake last March on Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant complex.

"Due to the Fukushima incident, we're thinking of reconsidering the (nuclear safety) study and see whether we should do other studies apart from nuclear," said Energy Undersecretary Jose M. Layug Jr.

"The budget has been approved, but right now the DOE is studying what to do next—whether we push through or defer or use the budget for more urgent matters. We are in discussions with other agencies," Layug explained.

Layug disclosed that the DOE does not have any specific program for the use of nuclear energy, nor does want to study it.

The P100-million nuclear safety study, which should be completed within 18 to 24 months, was to mean to give the government a better understanding of the current developments in the nuclear energy industry. For the chance, there is a trend toward standby, packaged facilities.

2nd Laurel Cup Football Tournament Announced

The students of Lyceum of the Philippines University (LPU) College of Law (COL) invite all football teams and enthusiasts to the 2nd Annual Laurel Cup Football Tournament on June 28 at the Army Support Command (ASCOM) Football Field in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

This annual event will be held in support of the upcoming LPU-COL Bar Operations in November. Also, this is a venue and an opportunity to foster sportsmanship, teamwork and camaraderie among the athletes and promote the development and awareness of basketball in the country.

This year's lineup includes football clubs and teams from all over the country. The event is still open for registration to teams and clubs willing to join. Interested parties may contact Kara Chua at (0917) 6411881 or Arthur Manuel at (0922) 8153436.

Maynilad to set up more coop-based water centers

By Rico T. Olalondres

MAYNILAD WATER Services, Inc. (Maynilad) rejected Friday that it will establish 13 more cooperative-based water centers for informal communities in its concession area under the Sumbalong Tubig Maynilad (STM) program.

In a statement, Maynilad said that the new STM centers will be established at Batasan, North Caloocan and Malabon.

The STM centers provide the chief factories to buy water at P10 per drum.

Previously, they have had to pay P30 to P35 per drum from roving water vendors.

And unlike the water bought from delayed many vendors, the water supplied by Maynilad is 24 hrs running basis.

As a result, residents are able to source more safe water for their daily expenditures and still save on their water expenses.

Aside from generating savings for beneficiaries and improving their water services, Maynilad said the STM centers have also been instrumental in empowering informal settlers through the values formation, skills training, and livelihood components of the program.

Prior to the installation of the water system in the beneficiary community, Maynilad organized the target beneficiaries into cooperatives and conducted the necessary training so that the members could manage the water system and payment collections.

STM operators (delivery boys) were tasked to distribute water in the communities while others undertook block charge of water metering and repairing the water system.

Maynilad also encouraged the communities to pursue livelihood projects to improve their living standards.

To promote funds for their chosen project, the STM cooperatives were allowed to apply a minimal mark-up on the water rate set by the company.

In some STM communities, the earnings were used to produce local resources, like drinking jars, labels, cellular cards and bags from recycled products. One community even used a portion of its collections to support a day care facility.

Maynilad is a concessionaire of the MWSS for the West Zone of the Investor Manila area.

Share prices surge

Previous page B1

cent. The property and services sectors were likewise up by over 1.1 percent.

The index was on an upward strengthening streak, only to, connecting momentum, when it reversed the 6,300-mark.

Value believers answered to P4.09 billion. There were 63 advancers against 44 decliners, while 40 stocks were unchanged.

Value turnover was P3.7 billion, against 446 million shares, dominated by small cap issues DMCI, Cebu Air, Ayala Land, Aboitiz Power, Aquila Philippine Holdings, again Land, Meralco, PLDT, Banco de Oro, EDC and SITSI.

On the other hand, Metrobank, SM Investments, Globe Telecom, Ayalaco, Metro Pacific Investments and SM Prime Holdings were off-board, thereby curbing the PSEi's gains.

Dealers said investors took heart from the favorable development in Greece.

Still, the Dow Jones Industrial Index was down by 59.76 points, or 0.48 percent.

Trading on Atlas Mining, which had been sharply contrary volume in the past two days, was suspended at yesterday following an announcement that it was taking full control of Lamon Copper Mining.

The company had also received SEC approval to merge it's 8,000-million fund mix up as a mix of debt and capital issues.

With the suspension of Atlas, most investors shifted to affiliate Anglo Philippines as a proxy to the mining play on Atlas, which was announced in the last quarter of new investors, including Peter Paul's Joel Philos Mining. Boris C. Bonifacio

PLDT gives a biz-grade boost to the SME's Internet service

These days, most businesses (small and medium businesses, SMBs) are starting to use the Internet as a way to reach out to customers. Some are the days when Internet was perceived to be a niche offline. It has become a basic tool in daily operations. For instance, coordination among the staff members and sample sales transactions and even client-server data can be done via PLDT SMB Business Solutions. Powered by newly-upgraded, all-powerful PLDT myDSL BIZ, Designed specifically to cater to SMEs, PLDT myDSL BIZ has packages ranging from 1 Mbps to 10 Mbps and even unlimited for those who need more bandwidth.

Fast access to emails, websites, and, especially, Voice over IP (or using VoIP) for long distance phone calls are only a few of the big-time business perks. Good thing, SMBs can now experience business-grade speeds (up to 10 times). The more sending and receiving emails can now be done with supreme efficiency. Getting real-time leads has also become even more feasible. Imagine receiving orders as it happens and being able to answer right away, even that's when we're still being approached.

Another new feature of PLDT myDSL BIZ is the Security Software Suite. The package makes the SME server keep the office Internet network in optimal condition. The ongoing update security system comes free with every subscription and according to PLDT SME Senior Marketing Head Jhoel Lavarez, these include Anti-Virus, Anti-Spyware, Firewall Protection, Web Protection, Time-Up and Privacy Manager software in the bundle in order to keep office networks protected from cyber crimes such as theft and viruses. Also, the software locks down the web browser and minimizes control of attacks. Files are kept and accessed.

To take advantage of this new bundled speed and security, PLDT myDSL BIZ now also comes with the Online Office Suite. Your own Virtual Office. For businesses, the SME will be one domain name and have small accounts with matching large number mailbox, just some of the key things that make doing business over the web even more professional and convenient.

Totally uncomplicated and nimble, PLDT myDSL BIZ comes in packages as low as Php1,000 a month. With the business-grade improvements, this Internet connection is surely a worthy investment to help any three-digit employees attain their business goals. To know more about myDSL BIZ, contact PLDT SME Station. Just dial 171 and say, "SME" or visit www.pldtsmb.ecair.com.ph or check out the PLDT SME Yahoo! Avatar on campus.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Mangosing

Drugs alone won't keep acids down

By Tessa B. Salazar

NO ONE had a clue that Inez Buenaventuran Reeb (not her real name) was suffering from pain literally every morning from the pit of her stomach.

Reeb, all 100 pounds of her perked into a Lilac frame, was diagnosed with Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD) and gastritis in August of 2000 when she underwent endoscopy at a well-known Manila hospital.

Though commonly called dyspepsia, heartburn or acid indigestion, medical experts call these collectively as GERD when they become chronic or sometimes as indivisible, according to nutrition expert Phyllis A. Balch, author of "Prescription for Nutritional Healing."

GERD is characterized by a burning sensation and pain in the stomach and/or chest, behind the breastbone. It may be accompanied by bloating, gas, nausea, sleeplessness of breath and/or vomit or sour taste in the throat.

Stomach acids going up

A heartburn often occurs when stomach acids make their way up instead of staying down. Hydrochloric acid used by the stomach to digest food and the esophagus (the esophagus (the tube or passageway of food between the throat and the stomach), causing sensitive tissues lining the esophagus to become irritated. Balch cited that normally, the esophageal sphincter muscle joins here itself shut and prevents stomach acid from surging upward. However, if the sphincter is not functioning properly the acid can leak past it and into the esophagus, causing GERD.

Reeb said GERD would feel like "mustard acid climbing up my esophagus, resulting in pain behind the breast bone." Sometimes, she added, she would experience chronic asthma, and she would suffer coughing fits. And when she starts drinking coffee it and eating gastric, she would feel as if her heart palpitated.

She went to the doctor and underwent laboratory tests, which didn't yield any conclusive results. It was only after endoscopy that the doctor saw she had GERD and gastritis. She was asked to drink a potion (using inhibitor) and a drug (Omeprazole). However, months on drugs and therapy didn't cure her.

More acids

She tried putting off weight, which she did, until she reached 112 lbs. "I also realized that too much antacids and the proton pump inhibitor itself gave me more acids and one stomach had a harder time to digest food."

After doing her own research, she was recommended by a classmate to plant-based nutrition clinician Dr. Rhonda Vernon. Vernon immediately removed several nutrients including dairy (branches) and Soft Drinks, and put her on vegetarian.

"My only thing was ginger ale (relieving troubled tummy). I used to but my compress every evening for my stomach, now my esophagus. My tea was red or unpolished. When I woke up in the morning, I drank 3 to 4 glasses of alkaline water, after (1 hour,) glass of fruit blend (papaya and pineapple) and then rice with mushroom soup with carrots or potatoes.

"I drank two glasses of water again after two hours. That's how my lunch and dinner also went. My lunch was mongo with malunggay or steamed spinach, then after two weeks, I added tofu without oil, with raw tomato sauce, without vinegar. That's how it went for three months."

From day, Reeb also exposed herself to 20 minutes of the morning sun and had 30 minutes of exercise. Slowly she started eating natural vegetable proteins (or vegetarian).

Reeb never had any GERD attack after word. Now she is GERD-free after two years.

Diagnosed with GERD

Rare (not his real name), 28, an Internet marketer, was diagnosed with GERD in 2007. The attacks visited, and he visited them in levels.

"I've had two gastroscopies done on me, one colonoscopy and a number of other tests. I've been on all the stages of my GERD over the last four years. I've been in and out of the ER, and the prescription is still the same hospital wise."

He also did his own research, took a few courses in the process, and generally altered his point of his life.

"Some things made a big difference for me as of late, going vegan and adapting to a healthier consumer lifestyle, as per my physician and nutritionist Rhonda Vernon."

Vernon optimized and treated techniques has also helped calm my natural and body."

Those techniques have also kept Rare's stomach acids calm and.

Discovering diversity

DISCOVER

Maxxie Santos Ruffolo

IN THE May 23 issue of the journal Fisheries, Filipino and American scientists reported identifying seven new species of fish sizes that live in brackish parts of the Lanfranco Mountains, Mt. Bandaw, the Magpis Mountains of Luzon and the Sierra Madre.

"The discovery and description of seven previously unknown species of mammals may surprise people, especially since all but one came from within 150 kilometers of Manila, a metropolis with roughly 15 million people, and especially in the current millennium, when it is widely assumed that... mammals would have generally been well documented. Our studies in the field and museum show that this widespread assumption is not well founded," wrote the team of researchers, which included Phillip Alvarado from the University of the Philippines, Los Baños, Mariano Roy Duya and Melissa Duya from the University of the Philippines, Diliman, and M. Josefa Vibar from the National Museum of the Philippines, in their report.

Affected by ongoing changes

Finding and identifying as many new species constitute sharply with the frequent reports on how plant, animal and insect populations in various land and marine environments are being affected by ongoing changes in climate and natural.

For example, in a recently released report based on a meeting held mid-April at the University of Oxford in England, marine scientists cautioned that the "next globally significant extinction event in the ocean" will happen unless action is taken immediately. The list of contributors to the state of the oceans included overfishing and the increasing number of ocean "dead zones" where the oxygen levels have been depleted due to fertilizers runoff from farmlands that promote algal blooms, in turn leaving the fish and other organisms that make up the ecosystem in the area to move elsewhere.

The identification of taxa that may not be so easily spotted in the mountain forests comes a year after a different team of Filipino and American researchers published a new species of monkey found in the same environment.

In the report first published online April 7, 2016 in the Journal Biology Letters, samples from museums collections were used to determine that the 65-foot long lizard found in the Sierra Madre range had not been identified before. This finding helped the massive lizard make the second Top 10 New Species List released earlier this year by Arizona State University's International Institute for Species Exploration, joining other newly discovered species such as a jumping cockroach, a ghost-in-the-dark amblyopsid and bacteria eating the sun off the hull of the sunken Titanic.

"How could such a large-bodied (2 lizards) fold longfelt sensitive lizard have escaped the notice of the many biologists that have worked in the northern Philippines?" The team led by University of Kansas researcher Rafe Brown answered their own rhetorical question in the Biology Letters article by saying that several factors might have prevented the discovery of such a long lizard species, such as the lack of surveys on the species diversity in the Sierra Madre forests.

Hasn't gone unnoticed

They also pointed out that the lizard hasn't gone entirely unnoticed in the forest. "People recognizing occupation by biologists," they wrote, "this new species is well known to certain Agta and Dumagat Tabaw people who rely on it as a major source of protein."

Though released a new name, both species authors that even as known species are disappearing, there are still otherwise, trying to be recognized, particularly in this country. "It is clear that a great deal of the mammalian diversity on Luzon, and perhaps in the Philippines as a whole, has been unknown to the scientific and conservation communities at this point, and it is likely that many species remain unknown," the team concluded in the Fieldiana report.

E-mail the author at tmsms@yahoo.com

MEDICAL COUNSELORS

Pharmacists crucial in effective healthcare

By Theresa S. Santamaya

FOR MOST Filipinos, a pharmacist is simply one who sells medicine—one who stands behind drugstore counters, busily taking the prescriptions from customers and getting them the medicines they need.

"The perception of the community is that the pharmacist is just a seller of the drug once you can't blame them because that is what they are used to as to how pharmacists are," said Lourdes Ocampo, president of the Philippine Pharmacists Association (PPhA).

Ocampo pointed out, however, that there is more to a pharmacist than just being a seller of medicines. Clinical pharmacy is, in fact, a specialty practice, she said in an interview with Inquirer Science/Health.

"Pharmacists play a crucial role in the effective delivery of health services... We roll out pharmacists medical reports, they are the ones who study the details and components of a drug or medicine," she explained.

According to Ocampo, pharmacists are supposed to be the medication managers and counselors, who help patients achieve the optimum benefits of medications.

"It is the pharmacists' duty to check the prescriptions for any potential adverse drug effects and interactions, inappropriate dosing (like should she be taking the effects of the medicine she's prescribed) and in individual patients, provide medical counseling to patients for various diseases and lastly provide drug information to guide the public and other health professionals," Ocampo explained.

She added that this is a service patients have to ask their pharmacists because they are entitled to get it whenever they buy their medicines.

Medicine misuse

Unfortunately, this kind of service is often not practiced here in the Philippines, where several cases of medicine misuse have been reported.

"It is a fact that there is a lot of medication errors occurring which the public may not know. The sad thing is, this error is very much preventable if only our pharmacists would really do their job," Ocampo noted.

She challenges the pharmacists to really do their job, warning them educating individuals regarding a particular drug down to the letters, concurrent, storage and dispensing of the drug," Ocampo said.

Ocampo is also appealing to hospitals and drugstore owners and operators to support pharmacists in operating this type of practice, adding further that this is all for the good of the patient.

"Medication is too expensive, and the patient is not in property. The medication is of the patient has to be really look into for the benefit of the patient, besides improper use of medicine may cause more harm than benefit," she added.

To date, only five hospitals—Makati Medical Center, St. Luke's Hospital, Philippine General Hospital and Asian Hospital—have actually invested their resources to push pharmacists in taking on their real roles as medication managers and counselors.

Regional conference

To further encourage this practice, the PPhA is currently hosting the 11th Asian Conference on Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Aside from "Broadening the Scope of Clinical Pharmacy in Asia through Innovative and Dynamic Partnerships," ACCP aims to the platform for experts in clinical pharmacy education and practice to share to all pharmacists the ideas and strategies on how they could enhance the value of clinical pharmacy services in the healthcare industries here.

Organizers are also hoping that through the conference, clinical pharmacy practitioners in the region will bring about innovations that may take the form of new clinical pharmacy applications, programs and interventions or innovative and dynamic partnerships with other members of the healthcare team, government or non-government organizations, legislators and other players from the pharmaceutical companies and other countries.

"With the complexity of medications and the different types of diseases evolving in the world now, the pharmacists have to exert a little more time and effort to really find ways to be safe patient-centric while being product-knowledgeable as healthcare practitioners," Ocampo concluded.

Robotic surgery a sci-fi dream now a reality

ROBOTIC machine ready for operation with Dr. Bevlyn Singson's manipulation in Da Vinci Surgical System.

Text by Rebecca B. Singson, MD, FPOGS, FACS
Contributor

YOU'VE THERE witness to surgery was just a scene in a science fiction movie. But no, the technology is here is today. Robotic surgery is a breakthrough surgical technology which paves the for of surgical management in the Philippines with a new category of minimally invasive surgery in the country.

What is robotic surgery?

Yes, it's exactly how it sounds. It is the use of robots in performing surgeries.

The Da Vinci Surgical System is a sophisticated robotic setup capable of expanding the operator's surgical skills, allowing the surgeon to operate with unmatched precision, vision and control. Furthermore, the surgeon can offer a minimally invasive option which is far more precise than laparoscopic surgery, in place of a major (and) thread surgery.

The Da Vinci robotic system is made up of 3 main components: a surgeon's console, a patient-side robotic cart with 4 arms manipulated by the surgeon, I use to use, and the camera and three to manipulate instruments, and a high-definition 3D vision system that allows the surgeon to see the operative field in stereoscopic vision.

In performing robotic surgery, the surgeon is relaxed sitting in the console from where he can see a magnified, high-resolution three-dimensional image of the part of the body being operated on. Instead of the traditional 30-100 mm large incisions with conventional surgery, with robotic surgery, miniaturized, wristed instruments are introduced through small incisions ranging from 8 to 12 mm and allows the surgeon to see the magnification in true stereoscopic vision, at 10-12 times more magnified than the naked eye can see. This allows the surgeon a better view of blood vessels and nerves that need to be avoided or dissected out.

Furthermore, the robotic and computer technologies combine to sense the surgeon's hand movements and scales it to seamlessly and electronically translate the surgeon's hand movements into precise micro-movements. It also filters out any tremors in the surgeon's hands so they will not translate to the robotic instruments. Contrary to your fears that the robot might run amok, the system cannot move by itself nor can

MORE ON B5

Men need care, checkups too

By Charlen E. Bulaer

MEN ARE supposed to be tough, able to endure pain without talking about it, right?

But according to one specialist in men's health, this "grin and bear it" type of attitude isn't helping and is in fact the main reason so many men suddenly die from diseases like stroke, heart attack, colon and testicular cancer.

"Perhaps, this is part of how a lot of men were raised. However men should change that attitude, otherwise they will continue to live a much shorter lives—men the world over are dying earlier than women who tend to live five to 10 years longer," said Dr. Quinto Rapa of the Asian Institute of Longevity Medicine (www.ailm.asia), a medical facility specializing in anti-aging medicine, more especially for men.

Rapa noted that more these days do not really pay much attention toward their health, unlike women who even since they were young were encouraged to take a closer look at their health by taking regular screenings as well as checkups.

"Men on the other hand are taught to be tough and brave and they avoid going to the doctor unless it is extremely uncontrollable or when the symptoms are already unbearable. This is usually the time when the disease has already progressed significantly that management and cure is extremely difficult," Rapa said.

The doctor laments that Men's Health Month this June, is not observed here in the Philippines.

Improving men's health

"We want to change this as we launched The Men's Health Society Philippines, which hopes to bring together a multidisciplinary team whose focus is improving men's health in general," Rapa explained.

By scheduling two lectures at the clinic located at Library Plaza Building on 139 de la Costa Street, Rapa hoped to encourage more men, especially the fathers and the male elderly, to seek regular medical advice and early treatment for disease and injury, and live as long as women do.

"Aside from maintaining a healthy lifestyle with good habits, proper nutrition and exercise, it needs to be mentioned in men that screening may be one of the best ways in which diseases and ailments can be prevented and they can maintain a healthy lifestyle," he urged.

Rapa recommended the following ailments that men should watch out for and must be screened for:

1 *Prostate cancer.* Screening should start at age 40 or 45. A simple digital rectal exam as well as a blood test of PSA levels are very important, especially if one or more male members of the family have developed prostate cancers. Prostate cancer is highly curable when caught early.

2 *Erectile dysfunction.* Erectile dysfunction or ED is every common, especially after prostate removal so men should not wait for their prostate condition to get worse.

3 *Heart disease/ high blood pressure/ high cholesterol.* Rapa said that if heart disease runs in your family or if your blood pressure or cholesterol levels are already high, don't wait for symptoms to appear and ask your doctor about taking medications or control blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

Rapa also reminded that because men's testosterone levels start to decline starting around middle age—due to called andropause that may begin at age 40—the levels of "bad" cholesterol starts to increase while that of the "good" cholesterol decreases, making men more vulnerable to heart disease and stroke.

4 *Weight increase.* Although not deadly, Rapa said that watching your weight also prevents one from developing so many ailments including type 2 diabetes, hypertension and arthritis.

5 *Diabetes.* A large percentage of Filipino males may already have signs of prediabetes (elevated blood sugar), which could be detected through a simple blood test. If left unattended, this may soon lead to type 2 diabetes which can lead to heart disease, stroke, kidney failure, blindness and loss of limb.

6 *Stroke.* Stroke is sudden and sometimes a single attack is enough to kill a patient. However, Rapa explained that one may be able to avoid this deadly condition if they are able to manage underlying conditions including elevated cholesterol levels, diabetes, heart disease, and hypertension.

Rapa also recommended that men should have regular exercise and proper nutrition

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT

Pursuant to Section 1, Rule 7 of the Rules of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC-009), as amended, the JBC will conduct a public interview on **13 July 2011 (Wednesday)**, 10:00 a.m., Training Center, Centennial Building, Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Manila, of (1) **JURADO, RONALD B.** and (2) **QUIROZ, ALEX L.**, who are candidates for the position of *Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice*.

The public may submit to the JBC sworn complaint, report, or opposition (in ten legible copies) against the said candidates not later than **5 July 2011 (Tuesday)**.

23 June 2011.

ENRIQUETA E. VIDAL
Clerk of Court & JBC
Ex Officio Secretary

(PSI - June 25, 2011)

RIVIERA GOLF CLUB INC.,
BP-PNSS ROAD, SILANG, CAVITE

NOTICE OF SALE OF DELINQUENT RGCI SHARES AT AUCTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE RIVIERA GOLF CLUB, INC. (RGCI) WILL SELL THE FOLLOWING DELINQUENT SHARES AT A PUBLIC AUCTION PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE BY-LAWS FOR NON-PAYMENT OF THE MONTHLY DUES AND OTHER ASSESSMENTS:

A00045 A00111 A00113 A00207 A00208 A00385 A00382 A00394 A00409
A00411 A00419 A00427 A00447 A00402 A00534 A00557 A00629 A00644
A00684 A00675 A00716 A00758 A00760 A00892 A00839 A00937 A01868
A01210 A01228 A01048 A01002 A01171 A01182 A01185 A01361 A01273
A01284 A01315 A01388 A01375 A01403 A01453 A01468 A01478 A01511
A01514 A01533 A01634 A01644 A01680 A01768 A01771 A01775 A01787
A01796 A01805 A01816 A01819 A01822 A01837 A01862 A01886 A01916
A01926 A02028 A02033 A02038 A01631 A01507 A01291 A00134 A00243
A00819 A01289

B00005 B00045 B00113 B00143 B00165 B00186 B00216 B00234 B00255
B00280 B00406 B00422 B00431 B00467 B00481 B00495 B00492 B00530
B00460 B00490 B00498

C00256 C00167 C00118 C00047 C00413

THE AUCTION DATE IS SET ON JULY 09, 2011 AT 10:00 O'CLOCK A.M. AT THE SITE PAVILION, RIVIERA GOLF CLUB, INC., SILANG, CAVITE. ALL INTERESTED PARTIES MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

(Sgd.) ATTY. ROLANDO D. BORJA
CORPORATE SECRETARY

(PSI - June 24 & 25, 2011)

More Classifieds

NFA A2
F. S. Dulalia B7
PSALM B7
Provincial Gov't. of Capiz B8
SSS B8

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

"OMCI CONDO"
FLAIR TOWERS

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

MANDALUYONG TH

OMCI CONDO

OMCI CONDO

STUDIO OR 1BR

VALLE VERDE I

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

FOR SALE:

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

PUBLIC NOTICES

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BUY - SELL - TRADE
ROLEX
LOUIS VUITTON

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PHARMACIST

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Capiz Emerald Colleges, Inc.

INVITATION TO BID

1. The Provincial Government of Capiz thru the Bids, Lands and Titles re-bidding of the lot with **THREE MILLION THREE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED PHILIPPINE PESOS (PHP 3,303,800.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) through public Competitive Bidding pursuant to **An Ordinance to Authorize** for the Enhancement of Capiz Performing Arts Center Interior, Lahug, Cebu City. Bids received in excess of this ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.
2. The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) now invites bids for works related to above-stated bidding invitation. Completion of the works is required for the period **Thirty (30)** calendar days. Bidders should have completed, within two (2) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from BAC Secretariat at the address given below from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents is available and may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below upon **June 30, 2011** and submission of a written application for the Bidding Documents in the amount of **Three Thousand Pesos (Php 3,000.00)**.
6. The BAC will hold a **Pre-Bidding Conference** on **July 01, 2011** at 10 a.m. at the **BAC Conference Room, Bids Building, Lawa Capitol, Cebu City**, which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the bid documents.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **July 12, 2011 at 10 a.m.** at the **BAC Conference Room, Bids Building, Cebu Capitol, Cebu City**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in the Bid Documents.
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall be returned unopened.
9. The Provincial Cebu/Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all/and at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
10. For further information, please refer to:

LEE CHARLES N. RECLA / ROBERT P. YUSEPEZO
Provincial Engineer's Office
In Front to St. Capitol Drive
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City
Tel. No. 253-8128
Fax No. 255-6097
www.cebu.gov.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO E. MARTINGALA
Chairperson

Posted at the BAC Bulletin Board
1 Bonifacio Street, Cebu City
(PSI - June 25, 2011)

ATTENTION: **SHAREHOLDERS**

ANGLO PHILIPPINE HOLDINGS CORPORATION

We are in the process of updating our stockholder records to ensure that all notices of meetings, dividends, stock rights and other correspondence from the Company are sent to our stockholders properly. In case there is any change in your mailing address, please advise our transfer agent below:

FIDELITY STOCK TRANSFERS, INC
Ground Floor, Prieto Bldg.,
Prieto Mining Corp.
No. 27 Bridson cor. Fabiana Sts.,
Pasig City 1605
Tel. No.: (632) 634-0401
Fax No.: (632) 635-9697
e-mail: fsti@pacific.net.ph

(PSI - June 25, 2011)

Request for Expression of Interest

BANK CERTIFICATE VISA, etc.
Call: 4190771 / 0916 624 7140

Advertise in INQUIRER Libre
ANY TRABAHO DITO
Get more exposure for your ad

OBITUARIES

"Be thought of you with love today, but that is nothing new.
Be thought of you yesterday, and the day before that too.
Be thought of you in silence, must often steal your tears.
Now, all we have are memories and your picture in a frame.
Your memory is a keepsake, with which we'll always part.
God has you in His keeping, we have you in our hearts.
We will always love you, and never forget You!"

IN LOVING MEMORY
of the
1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY
of

JACINTO "TITOY" TURINGAN MALLONGA

of Tapiapican City, Cagayan
who joined his Creator on June 25, 2010.

He is survived with **RENARIO SINCHON MALLONGA**, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren
request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Novena Masses: June 17 to 23, 2011 (7:00 a.m.) and will be offered in the following churches:

Basilica Minore of Our Lady of Piat ..... 6:30 a.m.
St. Dominic de Guzman, Tuguegarao City ..... 6:30 a.m.
San Isidro Jesturon Chapel, Tuguegarao City ..... 6:30 a.m.
Ermita de San Jacinto Chapel, Tuguegarao City ..... 6:30 a.m.
St. Peter Cathedral, Tuguegarao City ..... 6:30 a.m.
Archbishop's Palace Chapel, Tuguegarao City ..... 6:30 a.m.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4)

The Missionary Sisters
Servants of the Holy Spirit

announce the death of

SISTER FLORENCIA, S.S.p.S
(Avelina G. Gallardo)

on June 16, 2011 at the age of 101
at the Convent of the Holy Spirit,
No. 8 Panaitella Road, Quezon City.

Mass of the Resurrection
will be offered on Sunday,
June 26, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.
at the Convent of the Holy Spirit,
8 Panaitella Road, Quezon City.

Interment will follow
at the Christ the King Cemetery,
E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City.

REYNALDO B. MACASIEB

Joined his Creator on June 23, 2011
at the age of 72

His honored brothers and sister **Ricardo, Rolando, Meliboo, Jr.** and **Vilma** request the prime readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc. 12-G Aranda Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be at The Arlington Crematory, on Tuesday, June 28, 2011 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Inquirer Obituaries

"Eye has not seen, nor has ear heard, nor has it made an impact on man what God has prepared for those who love Him." – 1 Corinthians 2:9

Call us, Inquirer Classifieds:

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

PETITION FOR THE ISSUANCE OF NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION'S STRANDED DEBTS AND/OR ITS TRANSITION CHARGE FOR LEGITIMATE, PRUDENT AND MEANINGFUL STRANDED DEBTS AND/OR ITS STRANDED COSTS, WITH PRAYER FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY (PA).

ERC CASE NO. 2011 _____

POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (PSALM),
Petitioner

x ---------- x

DECISION

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION (NPC) is a government-owned and controlled corporation (GOCC) created by virtue of Republic Act No. 6395, as amended, otherwise known as the NPC Charter, with principal office at the NPC Compound, Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. It is mandated to undertake the development of hydroelectric power throughout the Philippines as a means to accelerate the total electrification of the country and to supply power to electric cooperatives, private electric utilities and other end-users.

PSALM is a government-owned and controlled corporation (GOCC) created by virtue of Republic Act No. 9136, otherwise known as the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (EPIRA), with principal office at the 6th Floor, Quezon Avenue Complex, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. It is mandated to manage the orderly sale, disposition, and privatization of NPC generation assets, real estate and other disposable assets, and IPP contracts, with the objective of liquidating all of the NPC financial obligations and stranded contract costs in an optimal manner.

On [illegible], PSALM filed with the Commission a Petition for the Approval of the Universal Charge Rate Schedule, docketed as ERC Case No. [illegible], which was granted by the Commission in a Decision dated [illegible].

BUSINESS

Electricity users face additional charges

Proceeds will be used to settle rest of Napocor debt

By Amy R. Remo

MANILA, UPDATE) Power firm Meralco and Cebu Electric Management Corp. seeks to recover from power consumers 36 centavos per kilowatt-hour over the next four years, and a separate 3 centavos per kWh each for a 15-year period to help pay the debt of another government firm, the National Power Corp.

In a statement issued yesterday, PSALM said the 36 centavos per kWh it wanted to pass on to consumers would cover the payment of rounded contract costs while the 3 centavos per kWh would be used to settle stranded debts.

The additional collections will fall under the so-called universal charges, and will take effect once PSALM's application is approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission.

The petition will be filed on June 26, said PSALM president and CEO Emmanuel Ledesma, Jr.

PSALM hopes to collect the universal charge for rounded contract costs (UC-RCC) for a longer period of 15 years, rather than the current four years set by the ERC, to ease the burden on consumers, Ledesma explained.

Should the ERC allow PSALM to recover the UC-RCC for 15 years, the additional charge would be equivalent to 6 centavos per kWh.

This means that the total universal charges for both rounded contract costs and stranded debts will amount to 9 centavos per kWh over the next 15 years. It will be significantly lower than the previous application of over 30 centavos per kWh, and previous estimates of up to 35 centavos per kWh.

In a result, the total debt to be passed on to consumers will represent a significant reduction from the over P600 billion that PSALM had sought in its first two applications with the ERC.

Ledesma said the total amount of stranded debts to be recovered stood at nearly P300 billion.

The PSALM executive did not mention the amount for stranded contract costs.

"This significant decrease was mainly due to the substantial privatization proceeds generated by PSALM from the sale of generation assets and IPP (independent power producers) contracts to reduce Napocor's financial obligations as mandated by the Electric Power Industry Reform Act," Ledesma said.

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

NOTICE

NAME OF REGISTRANT	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEATH
1 Villanueva, Eduardo	Antipolo	ROBERTO C. ARANETA	April 6, 2013
2 Villanueva, Eduardo Dominic	Antipolo	LEDUARDO ARANETA	February 4, 2008
3 Tuazon, Antonio Ramon Dela Cruz	Antipolo	ERNESTO ANDRADE, JR.	October 4, 2012
4 Villanueva	Antipolo	RICARDO A. ROSS	March 2012
5 Villanueva	Quezon City	MARCELO VILLANUEVA	November 23, 2012
6 Villanueva, Ludwig	Antipolo	MAXIMILIANO VILLANUEVA	December 31, 2012
7 Villanueva, Ludwig	Antipolo	MAXIMILIANO VILLANUEVA	December 31, 2012
8 Villanueva, Ramon Ramos	Antipolo	ROMULO V. MAGBANUA	March 30, 2013
9 Villanueva, Ramon Ramos	Antipolo	ROMULO V. MAGBANUA	March 30, 2013
10 Villanueva, Ramon Ramos	Antipolo	ROMULO V. MAGBANUA	March 30, 2013
11 Villanueva, Ramon Ramos	Antipolo	ROMULO V. MAGBANUA	March 30, 2013
12 Villanueva, Ramon Ramos	Antipolo	ROMULO V. MAGBANUA	March 30, 2013
13 Villanueva, Ramon Ramos	Antipolo	ROMULO V. MAGBANUA	March 30, 2013
14 Villanueva, Ramon Ramos	Antipolo	ROMULO V. MAGBANUA	March 30, 2013
15 Villanueva, Ramon Ramos	Antipolo	ROMULO V. MAGBANUA	March 30, 2013
16 Villanueva, Ramon Ramos	Antipolo	ROMULO V. MAGBANUA	March 30, 2013
17 Villanueva, Ramon Ramos	Antipolo	ROMULO V. MAGBANUA	March 30, 2013
18 Villanueva, Ramon Ramos	Antipolo	ROMULO V. MAGBANUA	March 30, 2013
19 Villanueva, Ramon Ramos	Antipolo	ROMULO V. MAGBANUA	March 30, 2013
20 Villanueva, Ramon Ramos	Antipolo	ROMULO V. MAGBANUA	March 30, 2013

Enjoy the rest of the summer with San Mig Light!

You can bid Sky Diving temperature cool breeze no matter how hot summer is in front you. So bring it on guys... let's party on!

There's still time to fill this country's usual summer destinations where the mood continues. But the timing is still fantastic and this time all pairs of beauties will be back again.

You still have time to show off that sexy body and sweltered skin you've worked out for this critical and inevitable.

Go out! Make waves! The season still beckons you to enjoy "Walks Like Rubber" and "Walks Like Rubber" Hot Dance exercise. You can hit any of our beautiful beaches or seas our way to the hottest night spots in the metro.

Dance as hot as you want, have light and cool as you please... just be safe... and watch that body to make sure you can confidently turn to your favorite party drink - San Mig Light, to douse the heat.

San Mig Light's low-calorie content can keep you partying on and on and on. With only 100 calories per serving, you can enjoy it San Mig Light to give you that lightening feeling of no hangover and take away your worries about gaining those extra pounds.

And even when it rains outside, there's no need to cry. So celebrate with that summer fever-dream in a way that is so easy and exhilarating to drink.

So, if you're wondering if you can still party and socialize this days and nights out to with excitement for what's left of the season? Trust the calorie-San Mig Light to enthusiastically declare... PIECE!

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF CAPIZ
City of Roxas, Province of Capiz
(036) 6210492 local 104
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Capiz thru its BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

Name of Contract	PROCUREMENT OF 4 UNIT BUSES (NO. 50 SEATS)
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	P5,000,000.00
Source of Fund	2013 LOTTO DISTRICT FACILITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bidding Documents	June 27, 2013
2. Pre-Bid Conference	July 12, 2013 10:00 AM
3. Opening of Bids	July 29, 2013 10:00 AM

1. In order to qualify for participation in the public bidding, bidders should conform to all eligibility requirements as prescribed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Republic Act 9184.
2. Bidders may obtain further information from BAC Secretariat through Mr. Edmund Bulilanda at the address given above during office hours. The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Bidding documents at BAC Office, Provincial Capitol, Roxas City upon payment of the non-refundable fee of PESOS: Twenty Five Thousand Pesos (P25,000.00).
3. Bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements & technical proposal, financial proposals in two separate envelopes in the set boxes before the deadline of submission of bids.
4. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of Cash or as prescribed by the BAC, of which all and must be in possession of the BAC drop box prior before the closing date on July 29, 2013, 10:00 a.m.
5. BAC Committee assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.
6. BAC Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding infeasible or not to award the contract and waive any or all technical defect as to entitled who as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO P. APIN-APIO
Chairman
BAC Committee

Date: June 18, 2013

By Living with ease and prestige at The Capital Towers

Dr. Dionisio Giovanni Dalilisan of St. Luke's Medical Center only wanted a flat that is conveniently located near his workplace and his children's schools. But when he and his family saw models and a The Capital Towers in Quezon City, he didn't expect to find a worth-each-to-fulfilled investment.

The Dalilisan live in Cainta. When the couple's two children — an intern at a hospital, two medical-career students and the baking-pan-dessert-business — had to travel far for trainings near their respective schools. Dr. Dalilisan and his two-hour daily commute from Cainta to Makati to work is overwhelming.

My children are currently studying in a different schools, UERM, UE, UP and Ateneo. I computed the monthly expenses, and realized it would be more practical to move in a condominium unit rather than pay for their separate dormitory rentals," Dr. Dalilisan added, admitting not to be convinced much maybe their purchase could help him and his family leave in The Capital Towers.

A for Accessibility

A project of Federal Land Inc., The Capital Towers is strategically located at the heart of Quezon City's commercial area. It's easily accessible to a host of commercial activities, colleges and universities in Metro Manila, making it an ideal home for college students or families with schooling children.

The benefits of this set-up proved beyond saving in time or fuel costs. It removed the stresses of long commute in driving, which just cost expensive time that can be spent more productively, enjoying more quality time.

And it's just a short drive away from St. Luke's Medical Center where the Dalilisan are currently employed. It saves as a Pediatrician and his wife as a dental practitioner. Moreover, with 24-hour security and front desk assistance, the safety of his children — something they could not do when they were still living in a condo.

Price Premium

Its investment location also makes The Capital Towers a prestigious address for its residents. In fact, Dr. Dalilisan says he is sure that back the 'second home' is forged by exciting retail shops, restaurants, sports hubs and other entertainment centers.

Whenever I want to go for dining, I can do so easily. There are so many places to choose from," he said, alluding to the outstanding culinary offerings of nearby Timog and Tomas Morato streets.

The Capital Towers is a product of the synergy between Federal Land, a pioneer in real estate development, and Megaworld, one of the country's top financial institutions. The team behind Megaworld-backed architectural firm Ong & Ong and Filipino engineering partner, Hans Sy and Associates, ensures that the projects are world-class.

The firm's signature touch effortlessly integrated refined architecture with robust interior design principles manifested throughout the property's beautifully conceived units and amenities.

A for Amenities

The Capital Towers is composed of three towers, each of which has been named after cities that hosted the Olympic Games. No matter what view of the city each unit has, residents can enjoy a spectacular view of the water features and lush landscaping that dot the area. Their location also affords them an aspect of breathtaking vistas like the Makati skyline in the south, the Sierra Madre mountains in the east, and the complete loveliness of the Manila Bay in the west.

The Athens Tower, and the currently under-construction Beijing Tower. The second Tower's primary appeal is its extraordinary amenities which Dr. Dalilisan and his family are now enjoying. These include a fitness gym, swimming pool, function rooms, a playground, a multi-purpose court and a garden. Once completed, the Beijing Tower will complement these existing indulgences with a lazy river, spa, a business center and a multi-purpose function hall.

Realizing the joys of simplicity

All told, it seems impossible for a family of six to fit comfortably in one cozy unit when the Dalilisan had thought. But after planning, design and distribution in what looks like a spacious unit, the Dalilisan realized they can make do with an extra room.

"Combining the living and dining areas together for the family unit serves as their personal retreat. We have learned to embrace minimalism and yet are not happy," reflects Dr. Dalilisan.

The family one bedroom or two bedroom units were all ingeniously designed for efficiency and comfortable living with style. It features floor to ceiling windows to maximize natural lighting and ventilation. While wooden-finish laminate floors and neutral color schemes are other features that continue to make for beautiful living with a touch of chic.

In a press release of the Megaworld Group, Federal Land is the name developer and manager of quality, sustainable and commercial properties with 30 years of experience in property development.

It helps that Federal Land makes the whole buying process stress-free," said Dr. Dalilisan. "The sales representatives are very professional. My questions are answered and properly answered before making a decision that they've bought." As attested to others by Dr. Dalilisan, three new families with children and those retired living with the convenience — in fact, it is only the beginning. To know more about the project, amenities and sales, visit the Capital Towers showroom at the Greenhills Shopping Center, Ortigas Ave., Quezon City or call the showroom at 632-2 7-8888.

Dr. Dalilisan

Lounge by the pool and enjoy the scenic view of Quezon City

Lito Cruz D. Magpantay

PROPERTY

FREE
FISH FILLET
with TOFU IN TAUSI SAUCE
at selected Classic Savory branches.
See posters, print ads or call our Customer Care Hotlines for details.
(02) 749-5591 | 09175647177
Not valid on Double Sale. Valid before 07/31/2011

If you don't see

Since 1950 Classic SAVORY

then it's not Classic SAVORY

NOW OPEN: SM North EDSA- Annex, SM Mall of Asia, SM Bacoor, SM Davao SOON TO OPEN: Robinsons Galleria, SM Valenzuela, SM Seaside & City Pasay (Binondo)

The tell-tale signs of flood-prone property

By Tonyo B. Salazar

INCLEMENT WEATHER will reveal what would have otherwise stayed hidden during the dry season. Property experts cheer to Inquirer Property this week that this is the best time to check for leaks, erosion, poor sewerage and drainage systems, overflowing creeks, rivers or lakes near the site, siltation problems, water ponds and water leaks of existing structures.

1 Spot the leaks, and show them to your agent. Makiwood Real Estate Association board vice chair Alexandra E. Mañalac suggests that buyers ask agents to accompany them during these inspections, as this would show a good level of their reliability and dedicated service to their clientele.

Forensic architect Pauline L. Wong says leaks in windows calls are normally removed by driving rainy during storms and typhoons, which means the window sealant need a reinforcing.

2 Be weary of the water. Wong advises property buyers to observe ground floor toilets. If the water goes up before flushing down, this may mean septic tank effluents are prevented from coming out because of flooded soil.

A year ago, Mañalac urged sellers, including developers, to provide a disclosure statement to buyers containing all the important details about the property, the building or condominium, type of soil, description of land, geological and development history. He notes this procedure is now being practiced by some developers.

"Hopefully, in the near future, the government will make it a requisite that, with every sprinkle mixer which the sellers have to disclose prior to the consummation of a sale," says Mañalac, who is now also the vice president for sales of Deca Properties Corp.

3 Scan the watermarks. Wong says visible marks on the ceiling would mean there are leaks, while water marks on the floor may mean water has been seeping into the floor joints, or at the joint between the floor and the wall.

Architect Edilberto J. Mirasol Jr. suggests that buyers look for flood markings on nearby fences or walls, or even on the trees trunks around the vicinity after heavy rains.

4 Peek into drainage manholes. Buyers must also look into drainage manholes, ideally after heavy rains, through the scuppers, to find out whether the drainage line is running smoothly. Macalla says still water in drainage manholes could mean corrugated or clogged drainages. This may also mean that it's just a maintenance problem, but buyers must demand proper maintenance to be done first before the sale is made.

Ulson Architect columnist Amado de Jesus tells Inquirer Property in an interview that the rainy season is the best time to check for soil erosion. "If the soil bed is higher, especially at the back, where does water flow? Does it flow into your lot?" According to De Jesus, a flood that occurs in subdivision roads may drainage systems can overflow into another community next it.

5 Look up, check the roof. Hong says dripping roof sheets caused by strong winds, and clogged gutters could be another telltale sign of an unreliable house during rainy weather.

6 Check nearby bodies of water. "If a river or creek is straining the property or is on some high soil erosion which could give you a ex. mal clue on the kind of soil composition there is. Bear in mind also that embankment protection, (retaining walls/riprap) when necessary, are very expensive. This will be an additional cost to you. Information about the creek or river can also be obtained from the local government's engineering office," Mirasol says.

7 Ask the neighbors. Talk one of the best ways to know if the area is prone to flooding is to ask the people living in the vicinity.

8 Mud on the road. For more layperson Property enthusiast Mañalac Jr. Avisco, a civil engineer, says another clue that raising the site during the rainy season would not only drain the area's traffic behavior during the rainy season, it would also show if the roads have a siltation problem. Mud on the road is a telltale indication of the "looseness" of the soil where the road is situated. One should first look at the "segregate and egress" (entry and exit) of the location, as the serviceability of the location to access roads are as important as the site itself.

9 High houses. Two telltale signs of chronic flooding in the area are the presence of sandbags and unusually elevated houses.

Own your unit for as low as P7,000/month.

The Grove's 75% open space.

It's just one of the many things that residents of other developments will covet about The Grove, along with the same kind of exclusive lifestyle and community, peace of mind and elegant architecture that you have come to expect from a Rockwell development.

Towers C and D now for sale. For inquiries call 571 0151.

ROCKWELL LAND

There is more to Stratford than meets the eye

By Iannah Cruz

LIONS IS the second booking 70-storey mixed-use residences at a distance into good. In years up, there is more to Stratford than meets the eye. For it, it is to "mixed-use and combination" building.

Pryce Development Inc., the real estate unit of the Ayala Group of Companies, and Hillcon have joined forces to come up with the project that aims to herald offices and retail developments in the vicinity of 711 metres. Stratford Residences will rise on Calaveras Avenue in Bel-Air, Makati, joining the district's bustling residential and commercial zone.

Standing at 205 height, Stratford Residences will set the bar for future luxury condominium developments in the metro," said Imelda R. Aguilar, Y. Pryce chair, in a recent press launch. Upon completion in 2015, the tower is expected to make its claim as the tallest living space in the country.

As an intelligent building, Stratford Residences will integrate the AMA Group's strategic unit—its information technology department—to power video conferencing and biometrics technology inside the building. Like a future-ready home, the building boasts of remote-controlled lighting systems and complete Wi-Fi access. Even the floor tiles in many will allow for responsive to

AMARTERE's rendition of the country's tallest living space in the future.

second-as-opposite height-sensitive properties.

The high-rise features earthquake-resistant features. The structure will boast 1,134 lofty, wooden, reinforced-concrete columns. Its 4,020 massive studded, varying inner studs, single, two- and three-bedroom units and penthouses. Units are priced at P144,000 per sq m.

High-strength concrete

Given the massive scale of the project, Pryce Development had to ensure that it would not be the last mixed-use. For its concrete requirements, engineers and architects decided will use high-strength concrete of 12,000 pounds per square inch (psi), four times stronger than the normal cement requires 3,000 psi.

The cement mix allows the developers to use on cuts for its steel requirements by using high-strength concrete for the foundation and superstructure. Hillcon officials also said its cement is designed "environ-friendly" to reduce carbon footprint.

"This partnership shows our commitment to provide our customers with solutions for their building needs and it is also that we are of the same values with Pryce," said Hillcon Philippines chief operating officer Roland van Wijnen.

Standing Guest Filipino citizen like architect Jose Pedro Fausto, Stratford Residences will have like a graceful touch of folded surfaces from afar. The whole concept takes inspiration from popular skyscrapers in New York City like the Beaver Towers and One Bryant Park.

The second-to-the design, which seven out of the lots designed by I.M. Pei is to 2,000, is not just for esthetics, though. The building's curvilinear concept helps in capturing and maximizing the presence of natural and artificial light, said Villaraza, a structural engineer, For on height, by seasoned residents that the building would be "tested for earthquakes."

Stratford Residences will have high-end amenities. Future buffs will enjoy the condo's top-class fitness centre. It will make available a multi-purpose garden and a lounge for those who prefer peace and quiet. The condominium will also house swimming pools, a library, salon and doctors' and barber shops.

Model units are available for public viewing at Pryce Place on Kalayaan Avenue. Stratford Residences will cater to the ultra-elite customers for the mixed-use complex that will feature high-end stores and other commercial establishments such as an international dining restaurant chain Buddha Bar. An eight-level parking is guaranteed for guests and residents.

Makati's top educational institutions like the San Beda Preschool Schools are located just a few blocks away from Stratford, offering convenience for its future residents. The shopaholics will be closer to the posh D'wes Plaza Mall on Makati Avenue.

Company officials expressed confidence that Stratford like other upscale projects is in good position in the market. Proof is its strong uptake; it has already sold a third of the total units launched two months after it began presselling.

Pryce Development was founded by Ayalaon in 2007. It has invested more than P400 million in its current upscale commercial and residential developments.

STRATFORD Residences will make available a meditation garden and a lounge for those who prefer peace and quiet.

A FORMIDABLE TEAM-UP Amable Aguiluz V, Pryce chair emeritus; Roland van Wijnen, Hillcon Philippines COO; Ed Schuyler, Hillcon commercial division; and Edwin Macaraeg, VP - Hillcon Concrete during the press launch.

Sorrento Oasis a new take on modern urban living

MORE AND more people will becoming home to the serene urban living that is being offered by Sorrento Oasis.

A project of Filinvest, Sorrento Oasis is a master-planned residential community nestled in the heart of Ortigas CBD. It is comprised of 27 low-rise buildings with contemporary architectural designs to appeal to a buildings of modern green.

It is open of our pre-since it has been extended to potential homebuyers, all the kinks of seven of these buildings have already been solid out.

This phenomenon follows the remarkable market response to other Ayala projects which are already in full take up.

Ashley Coalson, the vice president and Disaster Group head explains, "The high demand for private and secure yet high-security communities located in key cities has prompted our property to strengthen its portfolio of medium-rise developments. Filinvest addresses this demand with the creation of a "third option."

He added, "The favorable investment spot as it remains committed to providing quality and affordable homes whether it's used for a first home or for investment purposes."

Inspiration

Sorrento Oasis takes inspiration from its namesake Sorrento, a charming hillside town that remains one of the top holiday destinations in the world. Because Sorrento overlooks the coastline, the seven different buildings of Sorrento Oasis showcase a stunning panorama of Naples bay. Characterized by its picturesque streets, breathtaking parks and sprawling villas, it is also renowned for its abundant citrus groves due to how the surrounding fragrance of oranges and lemons carried by a gentle breeze in all over town.

Filinvest brings the magnificence of Sorrento, as referred to by the Neapolitans, to the Philippines as one of the pearls-oasis in the Orient indeed. The basic environment in the urban jungle that Metro Manila dominates makes for dwellings that will complement a lifestyle of work-life balance.

Sorrento Oasis reshapes the

A VERDANT courtyard awaits residents of Sorrento Oasis.

paradigm for city living by successfully fusing tranquility with accessibility in one master-planned community. It is set within a secure enclave, surrounded by easy two barriers of fragrant lush gardens and wide open spaces.

Set outside the secured perimeters of the community are main thoroughfares that lead to places of needs, work and interest. Sorrento Oasis is only minutes away from schools, hospitals, shopping centers and the Ortigas Central Business District.

Green living environs

Through the masterstroke of renowned property developer Filinvest, discerning homebuyers are presented with an option of secure, peaceful and green living environs that offer comfort, fine design and affordability. In the low-density community, over 60 percent of the property is allocated for open spaces, leisure facilities and greenery. The main citrus garden within the complex are reminiscent of the citrus orchards in Sorrento, rendering a lingering taste's fragrance to the air.

"We want to offer professionals and start-up families residing in the metro a living space that will not only serve as their home, but also a relaxing haven in the middle of the city—a true oasis," Coalson explains said.

The cleverly designed studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units fit the distinctive needs of the buyers. Completing the relaxing, laid-back ambiance is a range of resort-inspired amenities that the whole family can enjoy like a jogging path, lap pool, play pools, kiddie pool, a meditation pool and swimming refined walking paths.

Filinvest understands that the daily commute is often a struggle for most people. That's why we have projects like Sorrento Oasis, which integrate leisure and recreational amenities with the residential components. Here, the possibilities for quality leisure time are endless, and you don't even have to leave home," he added.

A healthy forest surrounds the whole community and a 24-hour security system provides safety within the premises.

Conceptions devised that Sorrento Oasis is true to Filinvest's commitment to reinvent living spaces to fit the needs of the modern Filipino lifestyle.

Sorrento Oasis is the refreshing dialogue that every family needs. Move in and create home in your new parcel of freshness in the city.

Sorrento Oasis highlights Filinvest's growing portfolio of Oasis communities, which include Oasis Ortigas-Antipolo, Cebu and Davao, as well as the Italian-inspired Cigar Oasis and Fairvision-inspired Mimi Oasis in Pasig....a testament to the company's commitment to provide a secure, modern and refreshing haven that modern urbanites truly deserve.

For over 50 years, Filinvest Development Corp. has been building the dreams of Filipinos all over the country with its diverse portfolio of quality residential developments.

Achieving that 'luxe' look . . .

From page B2-4

recently won two years ago Bel Residences, an Italian-based of technologically advanced and eco-friendly ground. His subsidiary, Filinvest Land Inc. was deemed environmental-friendly as certified by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), an internationally recognized green building rating system.

Custom-made service

"The service that we give is unique. Since we are the manufacturers, we can work with every client on a custom-made transaction," Bonn said, noting further that each client has different preferences on how he or she would want to see investments.

"It's a single transaction in every time. We also give our clients the option to choose. For us, interior is not an architectural product. We can give different designer based on your budget to every interior at a current-month deal to approach that we have with our clients," he explained.

Depending on the materials to be used, prices can range from as low as P5,000 per square as high as P50,000.

According to Bonn, producing accessories was the company's core business, comprising about 40 percent. As such, South East Luzon invested in researching and developing the means. The celebrities are even ready by the Italian stars himself.

South East Gate, he added, also boasts of having economic-sized designs.

Park South East Gate Philippines, such modern-vibe design like this pursuit from Megaworld's Bellagio 3, is custom-made for a specific customer.

"We are the only one who has the technology. Anything you want to translate to reality, we have the capacity to do it... We sell by bringing a new technology, the one that has the 3D effect," he added.

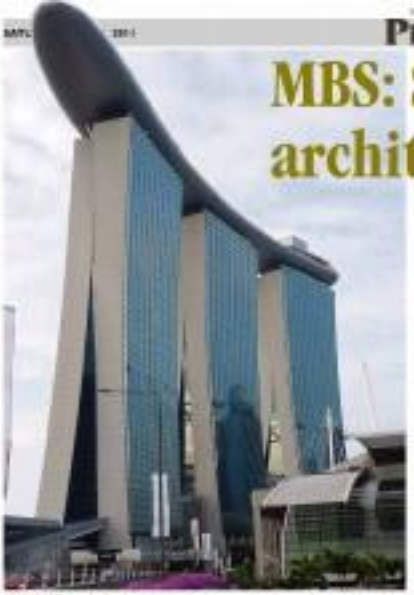
Bonn is encouraging clients—from developers to individual homeowners—to visit their showroom to have a complete view of the many and varied options that the company offers.

Mr. Ruffles assured that the quality of their products is at par with global standards.

"Our mosaic is produced not just for customers but for worldwide market. The quality and technical specifications of each product comply with international standards. What we are selling here is the same to what we are selling in Italy and to other parts of the world," Bonn concluded.

THE POOL at Ayala Land's Sonoma is made more exciting with the use of mosaic tiles.

MBS: Symbol of man's architectural ingenuity



SINGAPORE'S Marina Bay Sands is probably the most talked-about architectural marvel that is recently added to the Singapore skyline.

Text and photos by Charlie S. Bukot

SINGAPORE HAS a long history of building radically distinct modern architecture to promote the city's image as a regional architectural hub.

There is, of course, the dome-shaped Esplanade that stands out in front of the Marina Square area, the cylindrical, 71-story Swissotel The Stamford, one of the tallest hotels in the world and the oldest young and elderly-friendly Supreme Law Court of Singapore building.

With the completion of the Marina Bay Sands Resort in 2010, Singapore has truly defined itself to home to the world's best modern architecture.

Located opposite the iconic Merlion at the Marina Bay Waterfront, the Marina Bay Sands offers a distinct silhouette—three pencil-tilt sloping towers topped by a sea Bound-shaped structure—that can be seen across the marina from all areas of the city and from the sea.

Marina Bay Sands, designed by Moshe Safdie for the Las Vegas Sands Corp., is a 93-hectare urban district that integrates the waterfront promenades, a multilevel mixed-use and exhibition centre, and the iconic Museum of Art/Science on the promontory.

The three towers are already spectacular by themselves as each of the 55-story structure leans at an angle 10 Kmm from that of the skirt of the Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy.

According to its designer, Moshe Safdie, the hotel Towers 1 offers the steepest slope at 26 degrees, making it one of the most complex hotels ever built.

To build the slanted building, Korean builder Hyundai Engineering and Construction utilized post-tension method, a new construction technique that uses high tension wire on the supporting walls to support the buildings.

THE JACUZZI on top of Marina Bay Sands offers spectacular view of the Singapore skyline.

Main attraction

Of course, the Marina Bay Sands' main attraction is the 340 metre-long SkyPark and its 150 metre-long infinity swimming pool, regarded as the world's largest outdoor pool of 250 metres from street level.

The 1.2-hectare tropical oasis is longer than France's Eiffel Tower and is large enough to park two-and-a-half 2,000 pound jets. It rewards to host one of the world's largest public cantilevers.

Celebrating the notion of the "City in a Garden" that has been the underpinning of Singapore's urban design strategy, The SkyPark's 1.24-hectare area is dotted with 250 trees and 650 plants.

According to its operators, Marina Bay Sands is being positioned to become a premier resort destination dedicated to the vibrant diversity of attractions and facilities in a one home to Celebrity Chef restaurants, and has entertainment at the resort, night clubs and a Las Vegas-style casino.

Indeed, their vision to build an integrated development that is timeless truly makes Marina Bay Sands a landmark that has a distinct identity which will distinguish Singapore from other cities.

MARINA Bay Sands' lobby is as impressive as well as imposing.

THE INFINITY pool is 150 metres long and regarded as the largest outdoor pool at 250 feet or height.

LAMINATED FLOORING
CLEARANCE SALE
P480/SQ.M. P580/SQ.M. P620/SQ.M.
Cellonaziuk Marketing, Inc.

macnell
architectural paints
ACRE COAT
ACRYL MIL
ACRE FAST
MACNELL ADAMASIL
ACRE LAX
Elastomeric Concrete Topcoat
100% Waterproof!

Getting the best deal for your money

GETTING THE best deal for one's budget for a home involves careful scrutiny of what developers offer. Timeline real estate developer Pre-Friends has seven model-centric scheme easy and more rewarding.

Foremost among the things to be considered is the size of the house one intends to purchase. Prospective buyers should know that selling price differs from total contract price (TCP) as the latter incorporates legal and miscellaneous fees. Buyers must know how much they are willing and able to pay for their monthly amortization. Pre-Friends has a 10 percent down payment financial scheme payable in 12 months with no hidden payments and no hidden charges.

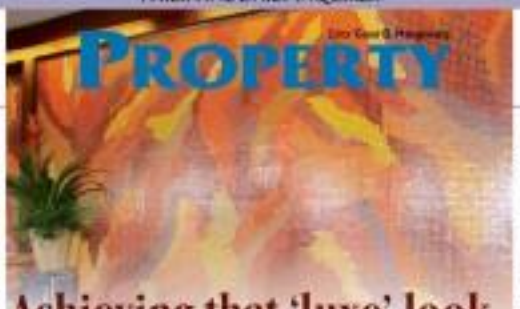
Several options of a good purchase are available and having a trained agent is essential. A competent agent would be more than willing to schedule viewing for the buyer to view various model units.

Aim to upgrade not as the price is the good bottom of the house. A well-planned neighborhood for a growing family is a safe, secure and accessible community should also be taken into consideration.

Pre-Friends has pioneered in developing linear parks. The additional open space behind the house does bring homeowners closer to nature.

Another factor to consider is the timing of delivery that the developer offers. Pre-Friends (www.prefriends.com) allows early move-in on the 15th month with a mere 15 percent down payment. If you're currently renting, you can save on monthly payments with a house of your own.

PROPERTY



Achieving that 'luxe' look with mosaic tiles

By Theresa S. Sanmartin

CONTRARY TO popular belief, enhancing the look of your space—be it a house, a room, or even just a corner—need not cost you an arm and a leg. A change can be simple, practical and effortless and still exude elegance and sophistication.

Installing like a mosaic tile, for instance, can surprisingly and readily dress up any space to give it that warm and "luxe" touch, reminiscent of old grandiose churches and of modern villas up.

Alessandro Rossi, president of South East Asia Philippines, told Inquirer Property that mosaic, which may once only extensively used in grand churches and by the rich families in Rome, is now a "practical, yet chic everybody wants."

Rossi explained that the use of mosaic tiles has become a trend, a part of interior finishes that can provide an accent just about anywhere—in the kitchen, bathroom, in the floor and even on the wall, like an art form.

Mosaic refers to surface decorations made by inducing small pieces of variously colored materials to form patterns or pictures, any material, according to Rossi, can be used to form a mosaic—be it glass, marble, metal, wood and even another of mosaic.

Considered a timeless piece, the mosaic is probably one among the most versatile finishes as it is adaptable to any area that it covers, from interiors. But can be any, customize to small or big spaces.

"The beauty of the mosaic is that it can be classic, it's very easy to install, requires practically zero maintenance and you don't need to refurbish," Rossi noted.

Some of the biggest developers in the Philippines, for that matter declared, have readily embraced mosaic and have been using it quite extensively as their development for some time already.

Interior designers are also more inclined to use the mosaic tiles to spruce up a space because it gives them the leeway to express themselves by mixing and matching materials and colors, according to the latest trends.

"That is why the mosaic is accepted by many interior designers (for finishes) all over the world," he added.

More notably now, a growing number of individual homeowners have also taken a liking on the mosaic to provide an accent to specific spaces in the home.

"We have big clients like Ayala, SM, Megaworld, Rizal and Landco as well as homeowners who come to us asking for just a 5 sq m of mosaic tiles for the bathroom, for instance," Rossi shared.

South East Asia, which has its roots in Italy, is currently the Philippines' topmost provider of solutions to architectural and interior finishing requirements.

Rossi claimed that his company was the first in the Philippines that manufactures and directly markets its own products, which included interior and exterior floor tiles, bathroom fixtures and ceramic accessories as well as lighting fixtures.

It was also the first to introduce to the

ACHIEVING ›› 3

YERONG MAAASAHAN, GANDANG PANGMATAGALAN!

The most number of roofing profiles available in the Philippines

DWIGHTSTEEL BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC.

Excellence Measured by Time

Suntrust Treetop Villas:
An affordable new alternative for Makati-based professionals

The Makati CBD is a prime location in the metro, attracting dynamic, professionally, leisure, entertainment and young, upwardly mobile families everyday. A business district where corporate workers, activists, retail establishments and institutions come together. Makati epitomizes energy, excitement and endless activity.

For all its advantages, Makati's fast-paced lifestyle can be exhausting and expensive. Today's homebuyers are increasingly demanding easy access to a vibrant Makati lifestyle in a more comfortable and laidback setting. With this in mind, Suntrust Properties Inc., a subsidiary of property giant Megaworld Corporation, offers a brand-new address that helps residents strike the perfect balance between work and leisure: Suntrust Treetop Villas.

Suntrust Treetop Villas, strategically located along Governor Forbes in Mandaluyong City, is near the Makati-Mandaluyong Bridge, putting the Makati CBD only 10 minutes away. Residents have the chance to drive to the CBD on uncongested public thoroughfares. For those who want to experience and savor an area friendly ride on their destination, the metro is an efficient transport option. The Araneta Center station along the Pasig-Marikina River Channel is only a short stroll away from the project.

Aside from being close to key constituents of Makati, Suntrust Treetop Villas is near first-rate learning institutions such as St. Paul College, Ateneo de Manila's School of Business, Mapua Institute of Technology and the Asian Institute of Management. From the project, upscale shopping malls such as Rockwell's Power Plant Mall, Glorietta, Greenbelt and SM Makati are also easily reached. Modern conveniences and cultural institutions are just as accessible.

For those already based in Mandaluyong, Suntrust Treetop Villas is the perfect address. It is near key arterials in the city, and just minutes away from Makati, where residents need not expend time or money [illegible].

An undeniable location is not the only thing going for the project. Suntrust Treetop Villas, the 16-storey complex, offers easy homes in a nature-filled setting. Nearly 40 percent of the community is dedicated to landscaped areas, open spaces for outdoor amenities, making it an ideal backyard getaway in the city. Families can relax and bond in the resort-style, 850 square meter recreational area featuring a clubhouse with function and meeting areas and function area. The second floor of the project is another haven: you suddenly have access to it's fully landscaped, pet-friendly children's play area as well as a children's playground.

Spacious homes is also reflected in the project's well-planned layout. Suntrust Treetop Villas offers 300 residential units spread out across 7,200 square meter land area, making it spacious and not overcrowded. The three-unit-per-corridor layout provides more room among neighbors and multiple outflows, giving the complex a more fluid and homey character.

The nine bedroom villas demonstrate are a major draw. Stand-alone offer views of the top of the gable, backhome, shampoos and bathroom areas planned all around the community. Other units boast condominium classic of Mandaluyong. In the north, Ortigas in the east, and the Makati skyline in the west and south. Seven high-speed, interior finished elevators are available in case residents from their homes in the twin-project back at the surrounded, the two-level parking area at the podium or the play area below at the ground level.

Each villa will set average of 90 square meters of space, offers telephone/internet ready lines and a provision for cable TV. There's also a provision for air-conditioning units in both bedrooms, custom-built under counter kitchen cabinets, mechanical ventilation, vinyl plank in the bedrooms and ceramic tiles in the living, dining, kitchen and bathroom areas. Condo-ready water supply, backup power, an advanced fire protection system and a 24 hour security system are also among the conveniences homeowners enjoy.

Homebuyers can invest in a Suntrust Treetop Villas unit for almost half the price of a Makati condo. Villas go for as low as ₱5.2M a month, and are available at friendly payment terms.

Suntrust Properties has a proven track record in providing Filipinos with affordable residences. Its condominium projects in the metro include Suntrust Ambiance Garden in Malate, Manila; Suntrust Parkview in Bicutan, Manila; Villa Sandoval along SLEX Alabang in Muntinlupa City; Suntrust Ecotown in Batangas City; Woodlands in Laguna City.

Aside from these, the company has subdivision communities in Cavite and Laguna. These include the Villa Sandoval Subdivision in Muntinlupa City; Suntrust Ecotown in Batangas City; Suntrust Hills, Cabanganayan and Cabatuan Villa in Cauayan, Isabela; Suntrust Parkview in Bicutan, Manila; Villa Sandoval along SLEX Alabang in Muntinlupa City; Suntrust Ecotown in Batangas City; Woodlands in Laguna City.

Aside from these, the company has subdivision communities in Cavite and Laguna. These include the Villa Sandoval Subdivision in Muntinlupa City; Suntrust Ecotown in Batangas City; Suntrust Hills, Cabanganayan and Cabatuan Villa in Cauayan, Isabela; Suntrust Parkview in Bicutan, Manila; Villa Sandoval along SLEX Alabang in Muntinlupa City; Suntrust Ecotown in Batangas City; Woodlands in Laguna City.

Those interested in experiencing a month of fresh air in scenic living can visit the Suntrust Treetop Villas project site. Agents are [illegible] may call [illegible] at [illegible] for a visit or [illegible].

PINOYS OF THE WORLD

Supplement to Inquirer Yuang Aksaya

'Sandaang Bahay Bawat Bayan' program to benefit OFWs

By Joel V. Nigos

FILIPINOS WORK abroad for various reasons. One is to be able to send their children to school as the low wages here coupled with the continued rise in tuition and other educational expenses can be prohibitive even to middle-income employees. Another is simply to provide the basic household needs as there are no sources of livelihood here or even if there are, they are not enough to make both ends meet. Still another is to pursue one's profession. But the most essential is probably to fulfill their dreams of having their own home.

Though being funds-required through working abroad is enough to buy a house for an OFW's family, government assistance is still needed to address one of the country's biggest problems. This is where local government units can intervene and help.

As the province for decent and affordable housing should be one of the fundamental purposes of any local government, each LGU must strive to make housing accessible especially to its constituents' low-income families. With the help of government agencies such as the Pag-Ibig Fund and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, LGUs can have as many funds that will allow them to provide social housing or assistance to in their budget. This can benefit to-end-tenors, including families of overseas Filipino workers.

LGUs are supposed to provide social housing for their low-income constituents through RA 7279 or the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992. This and the Local Government Code allows the LGUs to acquire land for the purpose of social housing. With the help of the Pag-Ibig Direct Developmental Loan Program, LGUs can get financing through their developers as easier for the end-lower cities.

There are 10 easy steps that LGUs can embark on for this undertaking: 1. Determine the housing needs of its employees and constituents; 2. Pre-qualify the interested employees and constituents; 3. Identify the housing site; 4. Partner with a reputable developer; 5. Obtain Sangguniang Bayan approval; 6. Approve the housing package from the developer and enter into a joint venture agreement; 7. Avail of the Direct Developmental Loan Program from Pag-Ibig Fund (or any government financing institution or local banks); 8. Developer commences land development and construction of housing units; 9. LGU submits the individual housing loan requirements to Pag-Ibig; and 10. Upon completion of the housing units, Pag-Ibig issues the notice of approved upon compliance, releases loan proceeds to pay off the developmental loan and contractor.

A housing unit can be availed by an OFW through close via Pag-Ibig.

These 10 easy steps are part of the paper read during "Sandaang Bahay Bawat Bayan" studies led by Ruel Rasa, president and CEO of PHILIP Estate Management and PHILIP Multi-Living and executive vice president of Chambers of Real Estate Builders Association. She was also past chair of the Cebu Social Housing Foundation. With these 10 easy steps, LGUs can be guided as to be pro-ven of contributing to the alleviation of the

MARIANNE B.L.

ERASING the recent ground opening of Starbird VIPinoy lounge at Starbird 3 are, from left: Ayala Land president Tony Aquino, Vice President Jaime Bisay Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and Ayala Land chair and CEO Fernando Zobel de Ayala. VIPinoy Lounges are also in Makati Market!, Trillium Mall and Newport Mall.

Globe, Ayala Malls set VIPinoy Lounge

Globe partners with Ayala Malls to open VIPinoy Lounge, an exclusive customer lounge for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) returning Overseas Filipino (OF) balikbayans, and their immediate families.

Available in Ayala Malls and Ayala-managed malls nationwide, the lounge hosts a variety of amenities such as dinning stations, comfortable sitting areas, mini-bars and money changer services, and videoconferencing services. For uninterrupted connectivity, Globe powered the lounge with high-speed and wireless connection and multiple charging stations for customers to enjoy.

To gain access to the lounge, OFWs, balikbayans and their family members only need a VIPinoy Card, a privilege card entitling them to a host of exclusive perks and privileges such as automatic membership to Ayala Malls A-Card, exclusive invitation to sale events, workshops, seminars and promotional activities, priority sale for ticket purchases in Ayala cinemas, and reserved seats in Ayalahills.

The VIPinoy card membership is available for only P150 and is valid for 2 years. The card gives members unlimited use and visit of the customer lounge.

Aside from these exciting benefits, cardholders are also eligible to avail of free consultation services from participating partners such as Ayala Land International, Bank of the Philippine Islands, Globe, Philippine Travel Association (PTA), Philippine Franchise Association (PFA), Philippine Consortium of Migration and Development (PHILCONDEV), AMKA, Ideas, Iloilo Center for Women and IMAP-Philippines.

Also available in the customer lounge are Globe booths where customers can purchase a variety of international products and services such as Globe OFW SIM Pack, Globe TipIDD Card, Globe IDD Sakto Calls and Globe iTXT.

"We are excited to be part of another nationwide milestone. Through this initiative, we give back and show our gratitude to our modern heroes, the OFWs, the OF balikbayans, as well as their beloved families," said Atche Jison, Head for Overseas Filipino Communities and Strategic Alliances of Globe.

Jison added, "With the set up of the VIPinoy lounge, we are able to showcase how our portfolio of services plays an important role in bridging the gap between families and loved ones separated by distance. With our broad value and worldwidest coverage, we are happy that our products have strengthened connectivities, and lifes over the years."

OFWs in UAE can now avail of low-cost loans

LABOR AID | Employment Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz (seated, last row) chats with United Arab Emirates officials who will offer overseas Filipino workers and their families low-cost loans under the Emirates Ships Protection Scheme.

Baldoz made the announcement while meeting with H.E. Issa Gheibeh Al Suwaidi, director general of the Dubai Police General Headquarters, the city where both are attending the 100th International Labor Organization conference. She was joined at the meeting by H.E. Ivan Gaviola, Philippine Permanent Representative to the UN Mission in Geneva, and Labor Attaché Manuel G. Imson.

"Minister Gheibeh assured me the UAE will raise from our family loans to any OFWs before their departure from the Philippines. The amount of the loan will be equivalent to a two-month salary and will be implemented jointly with Philippine banks," Baldoz said.

Minister Gheibeh had also informed Baldoz that the UAE plans to hold the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue with the IOM in early 2011, under the Gulf Cooperation Council setting as the host nation.

"Minister Gheibeh and I agreed to convene a working level meeting in Geneva this week with the representatives from the Philippines, UAE, India, Bangladesh, the IOM, and the GCC to discuss the proposed text of the ministerial meeting, which the UAE has offered to host the Philippines to host," Baldoz said.

HK domestic workers to get wage hike

Over 100,000 Filipino domestic workers in HK are set to get HK$3,580 (about P687) more in pay after the Chinese territory's Cabinet approved on Wednesday an increase in their minimum allowable wage (MAW). The new MAW is now $3,740 (about P28,798) from the previous $3,580 (about P19,686), the prevailing wage since July 2008.

Aside from the additional wage, the Hong Kong Executive Council also announced $2.8 billion in the form of allowance for migrant maids and says are officially known in Hong Kong as foreign domestic workers.

In another development, the Philippines had formally entered last month, the request of Saudi Arabia for a pool of Filipino maids working in the kingdom, Baldoz said.

She said the POEA ruled that the $400 minimum salary for Filipino maids working abroad would remain despite the Saudi request that it be bought down to $200 and amid support for less and being followed in other countries.

"In the last POEA governing board meeting, it was agreed that we maintain the minimum salary, so far as the POEA governing board is concerned, we will continue to enforce the $400," Baldoz said.

Amid Cabinet's fast on the ailed Philippine labor officials to lessen the maximum salary of Filipino maids to suffer in Manila and in Riyadh.

But some of the maids in dispute, the Saudi government has agreed to place the maximum of the deployment of Filipinos considered the kingdom which started in March.

Baldoz said the suspension led to over 80 percent decrease in the number of Filipino maids deployed to Saudi Arabia, with only those returning to their jobs in the kingdom allowed to leave the Philippines. Inquirer Archives

New opportunities for PH students in Australia

PERMAHA INTERNATIONAL Academies, a new Philippine post-secondary educational institution, has announced the franchising of its certificate and diploma programs offerings in a solemn partnership with five reputed colleges in Australia, namely Brisbane College of Australia and Equals Institute.

The academy collaborates to enables the students to study the first part of their first and second-year diploma or advanced diploma course in the Philippines and complete the remaining part in Australia. The set up provides them with first and more affordable option to gain internationally recognized qualifications which will serve as their pathway to pursue a new and even majestic opportunities in Australia after completing their studies.

Completing the first part of the course in PIA in just the next to nine months will put the students on the pathway to internationally recognized qualifications and global resource opportunities. The graduated class with a part-time work permit is currently processed by the Australian Embassy in Manila in about two months. Family members may join the student and will be granted dependant visa with the same work permit.

While studying their second part of their course in Australia, the student can take part-time employment during term and full-time during breaks. On completion of the study, graduates may apply for either a sponsored temporary work visa, sponsored resident visa or graduate temporary visa that could lead to permanent residence along with their family members subject to meeting the criteria and requirements of the existing immigration rules.

PIA is focusing on courses which are included in the high demand list of Australia and other countries to ensure that the students will have the best global career opportunities after graduation. Initially, it will offer the certificate in business and certificate in leadership programs. It will soon add to the certificate programs in health and community services and hospitality disciplines. At present, PIA is finalizing similar academic partnerships with leading colleges in New Zealand and the United States.

PIA is owned and operated by a trusted professionals with decades of distinguished track record in educational education and visas and immigration fields. It is founded by its president Victoria Yu whose vision is to provide a more affordable access to high quality and globally recognized education to Filipinos to enhance their skills and competitiveness which hopefully will lead them to the best opportunities in overseas and international levels. She says PIA's post graduate partnership with premier Australian schools ensures a viable "Study Pathway" grant" opportunity for Filipino graduates and graduates to pursue their careers in Australia. She added that this can also help address the existing problem of lack of established opportunities for new graduates in the Philippines.

PIA is now accepting applications for enrollment in the academy in business and certificate in bookkeeping programs at its Mandaluyong San Juan/Manila Campus for the July 2011 intakes. This is open for those who have completed at least Five (5) college or first-year college. Call 310-0004, 718-8187, 725-0289, 800-081 | or e-mail pia@info.com.ph.

OPENING | (From left) Expo chairwoman Ivy Sarmiento, board of directors chairman Ricky Carandang, CPVF (BM) Network Foundation Inc. (Pandayang OFW-I), former Rep. Gina Ilgonas Hernandez (secretary to the Pasay City Mayor), vice chairman Rep. Evasio Cesanas, Edith Gomez (Bon Golden AVP for regional marketing), Marcos Adduru (director for livelihood and business development/project of Pandayang OFW-I), and Lani Pedrajas of Pandayang OFW).

Handog kay P-Noy OFW Jobs Expo opens at PhilTrade

IN PREPARE to the job creation and promotion of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), Secretary Jose C. Rizalino M. Pandayang Overseas Filipino Workers-Small and Medium Enterprises Network Foundation Inc. (Pandayang OFWs) and Philtrade Handog kay P-Noy Jobs and Livelihood Expo 2011 (Part 1) on the 19th Pandayang Overseas Filipino Workers Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (small starting at 10 a.m., June 16-19 at the Philippine Trade Training Center, Pasay Boulevard Corner, Diokno Boulevard, Pasay City.

Pandayang OFWs president George Ilgonas directly said thousands of overseas and local jobs will be made available to qualified applicants by international agencies from the Overseas Employment Employment Administration and local manpower agencies authorized by the Public Employment Service Office.

Some of the representatives of which Emirates Airlines from Hong Kong, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and United Arab Emirates are Innovative Manpower Services, MGM International Placement Corp., Infinite Global Manpower Corp., Global Manpower Corp. and Gulf International Manpower Corp. The local jobs are estimated from 1,000 to 2,000 jobs, Ilgonas said.

Secretary Jose P. Rizalino M. Pandayang Overseas Filipino Workers-Small and Medium Enterprises Network Foundation Inc. (Pandayang OFWs) and Philtrade Handog kay P-Noy Jobs and Livelihood Expo 2011 (Part 1) on the 19th Pandayang Overseas Filipino Workers Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (small starting at 10 a.m., June 16-19 at the Philippine Trade Training Center, Pasay Boulevard Corner, Diokno Boulevard, Pasay City.

Pandayang OFWs president George Ilgonas directly said thousands of overseas and local jobs will be made available to qualified applicants by international agencies from the Overseas Employment Employment Administration and local manpower agencies authorized by the Public Employment Service Office.

Some of the representatives of which Emirates Airlines from Hong Kong, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and United Arab Emirates are Innovative Manpower Services, MGM International Placement Corp., Infinite Global Manpower Corp., Global Manpower Corp. and Gulf International Manpower Corp. The local jobs are estimated from 1,000 to 2,000 jobs, Ilgonas said.

Secretary Jose P. Rizalino M. Pandayang Overseas Filipino Workers-Small and Medium Enterprises Network Foundation Inc. (Pandayang OFWs) and Philtrade Handog kay P-Noy Jobs and Livelihood Expo 2011 (Part 1) on the 19th Pandayang Overseas Filipino Workers Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (small starting at 10 a.m., June 16-19 at the Philippine Trade Training Center, Pasay Boulevard Corner, Diokno Boulevard, Pasay City.

Pandayang OFWs president George Ilgonas directly said thousands of overseas and local jobs will be made available to qualified applicants by international agencies from the Overseas Employment Employment Administration and local manpower agencies authorized by the Public Employment Service Office.

Some of the representatives of which Emirates Airlines from Hong Kong, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and United Arab Emirates are Innovative Manpower Services, MGM International Placement Corp., Infinite Global Manpower Corp., Global Manpower Corp. and Gulf International Manpower Corp. The local jobs are estimated from 1,000 to 2,000 jobs, Ilgonas said.

'Sandaang Bahay. . .'

housing backlog, uplifting the socio-economic standing of their users, and economic uses to their local budget.

The "Sandaang Bahay Bayan Bayan" is developed in response to the challenges to provide truly affordable and decent housing to all, including OFWs and their families, through their respective local government units.

As of present, there are 1,499 LGUs (1,490 municipalities, 119 cities and 86 provinces). If each will build basically-classified homes each year, they can easily provide to more than 149,000 families. And that can be replicated annually which in the long run could reduce the country's housing backlog of 4 million homes.

The project would be presented to Vice President and concurrent Housing czar Jejomar Binay during the opening day of the Philippine Real Estate Fest. on 2011 on July 20, where he will be the keynote speaker.

The national league and CLUP development partners, namely, Mayor Strike B. Revilla, national president of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, Mayor Grace E. Rodriguez, national president of the League of Cities of the Philippines and Gov. Alfonso V. Umali Jr., national president of the League of Provinces of the Philippines would be on hand to support the program.

With the Home Development Mutual Fund or Pag-IBIG Fund and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) who under Binay being government housing agencies, the Philippines of this project would be easier.

And with the enactment of Republic Act 9679 or the Home Development Mutual Fund Law of 2009 which mandates all overseas Filipino workers to be a member of the Pag-Ibig Fund, OFWs can now easily get a housing loan from Pag-Ibig. One of the declared features of that new law is the single act of the OFW is required to pay his regular dedicated share to the OFW's Pag-Ibig account which is equivalent to 2 percent of his monthly income.

The law covers all Filipinos who will be working overseas - whether land-based or sea-based - and they are required to register with Pag-Ibig as a member before they leave their respective destination. For sea-based workers, the housing or employment agency which hired them is the employer. Thus, would be required to pay its counterpart share to the Pag-Ibig premium.

To date, no official housing rules other a maximum of P400,000 loan. Though Pag-Ibig members can borrow up to P1 million. The requires a monthly income of P50,000 a year.

For an OFW, one rule of thumb on mortgage a housing loan is what his monthly amortization is about one-fourth (1/4) of his net take home pay. For example, if the net family take home pay is P16,000, he can avail of a house that has a monthly amortization of about P4,000. The current rate of a housing loan of as much as P900,000, as an initial requirement, those who will avail of a Pag-Ibig loan needs to be a member for at least 24 months or has paid 24 monthly contributions at the time of the housing loan application. Its rules required to pay the upgraded contribution rates upon borrowing loan approval.

The Philippine Real Estate Festival will be held at The Pre-SM Trade Center on July 20 to 31. Heads of key shelter agencies will be in attendance to give more insights to the issues and solutions surrounding socialized housing. To know more about PREF, call 829-2000 or 404-0224.

BPI opens biggest search for kids of OFWs on 160th year

THE BANK of the Philippine Islands (BPI) brings a bigger and wider front for exemplary Filipino Overseas Filipinos (OF) with the 2011 Search for the Ten Outstanding Expat Pinoy Children as BPI celebrates its 160th anniversary celebration.

Now on its fifth year, the Search for Ten Outstanding Expat Pinoy children will award students at the regional achievements in academic and non-academic fields for the Bayang Kinesing Tulisan, Dong Bayang Community Leader, Bayang Kinesing Entrepreneur, and Bayang Kinesing Kids Athlete categories.

"BPI's annual search for outstanding Expat Pinoy children reflects our continued thrust to support and help the country build a younger generation with the right values and skills for today's modern day heroes, our overseas Filipino workers," says Teresita B. Tan, executive vice president and group head of overseas banking and channel management of BPI.

First introduced in 2007, BPI's Search for the Ten Outstanding Expat Pinoy Children recognizes the youth and their OFW parents by recognizing their significant contribution to the country as model families and modern-day heroes of today's generation.

This nationwide search is open to college students not more than 23 years old, full-time billing grade and with a parent holding a current work contract abroad. To join, applicants must submit an essay titled "What it has changed characterize: Bait you have which you think is unique to non-OFW and overseas that 'you believe is beneficial to change the community around you?' or alternatively 'Also in a unique we are inducing young kababayan billing and up using overseas Filipino Bawkay na nakatulong sa pagpapaunlad ng isang pamayanan?' in either English or Filipino with at least 1,000 to maximum of 2,000 words. The applicants are judged by a screening committee based on their academic excellence, community service section, and other non-academic talents or skills such as sports, music, or arts.

Private schools and application forms are available at www.bpiexpressonline.com. Application period is until Aug. 31.

Visa launches remittance service for OFWs

LEN Lawrence, Visa country manager, Philippines and Guam

VISA, IR partnerships with Unionbank of the Philippines, has launched recently Asia's first savings-fund allows Visa cardholders to receive funds from overseas straight to their Visa cards via an online interface.

The service uses Visa's Personal Payments technology which provides millions of Visa cardholders faster and more convenient ways to receive everyday remittances. UnionBankers, a leading provider of remittance services in the economy, will be the first country to offer the service to the Philippines with others here quarters for Filipinos working overseas added in the coming months.

Visa Personal Payments allows people with Philippines-issued Visa cards to receive funds in near real-time, giving recipients their money in minutes, quickly and securely. It is also convenient than other alternatives as recipients no longer have to visit a cash agent location to collect cash. Instead, funds are deposited directly onto cards. Once the cards, which can then be used to make purchases at millions of local and global merchant outlets that accept Visa cards, as well as withdraw cash from more than 1.5 million ATMs in the Philippines and around the world.

Len Lawrence, country manager, Philippines and Guam, said, "Making a remittance feature to Visa cards makes a lot of sense for the Philippines as one of the world's most sophisticated remittance markets. Visa cards offer the best way to make purchases and withdraw cash, and they are now the best way to receive overseas remittances as well. It really satisfies all sides. It is fitting that our first rollout of this service is now in the Philippines, and is further proof of Visa's ability to deliver world-class products and services to its customers here, in partnership with innovative banks like UnionBank."

"Demand for more advanced remittance channels is coming for several reasons: the increasing preference for electronic over cash-based remittance options, the need for security and more and the Philippines' increasingly internationally-based workforce. Visa's new remittance technology provides the opportunity for our bank to delivery more functional convenient maintenance to Visa's customers," Lawrence said.

Grupo V Lopez, UnionBank executive vice president, said: "UnionBank understands the difficulties involved in sending and receiving remittances across borders. Consumers, especially those with family members working overseas, are constantly looking for speedy, hassle-free and secure options to receive their money. With this new Visa Personal Payments service, they will get exactly that. We are happy to partner with Visa to be the first bank in the Philippines and in Asia to offer the service, as we constantly strive to find better ways to serve our customers and benefit the Filipinos here and abroad. This new service not only allows UnionBank to showcase its strength in innovation but more importantly, shows us a good example of enabling communities through smart banking solutions."

How Visa personal payments work

Filipinos working in the UAE can visit any one of more than 650 branches of UNIBANK, the leading exchange houses in the UAE, where they simply provide the recipient's Visa card number to initiate the funds transfer. The service does away with the need for senders to fill out complicated forms and provide routing information such as bank codes and branch addresses.

Funds are credited directly to the recipient's Visa Debit or Visa Prepaid card in minutes, freeing recipients from having to visit agent locations to collect cash. To apply for a UnionBank Visa Debit Card, visit any UnionBank branch or call 841.8800 for more details.

DOT bullish to promote 2011 to 2016 as Pinoy homecoming years

THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism (DOT) is bullish to promote and support the implementation of the recently issued Proclamation No. 161 by His Excellency President Benigno Simeon Aquino III that declares the years 2011 to 2016 as the Homecoming Years for Pinoys.

Another Overseas Filipino (OF) economy continues to experience setbacks. We, the Government extends its support for the country's "modern-day heroes."

Through Proclamation No. 161 and RA No. 8759, as amended by R.A. No. 9174, or the Balikbayan Program, OFs are given special privileges and benefits in recognition of their contributions to the growth of the economy in the era of foreign exchange inflow and remittances.

The Proclamation also underscored local tourism by enhancing and encouraging the OF owners only to visit the Philippines, maybe with their families and enjoy their homeland any time of the year.

Says DOT Secretary Alberto A. Lim, "We foresee a substantial increase in tourist and Filipinos visit for the next five years and as well the economy is progress more evidently seen. More developments such as hotels and resorts are happening in most spots all over the country. The standards being improved and being built where there is more natural and man-made tourist attractions with alike additional and more flights to choose from. We would like to support the President in his vision to welcome our Filipino "kababayans" abroad upon their return and enjoy their homebenefits/ stable. Thus, we will definitely promote this proclamation."

The Pinoy Homecoming campaign targets an increase of 25% in visitor arrivals from North America for 2011 over the 2010 figures.

The Department of Tourism is putting a high premium on Filipinos based abroad as they have steadily contributed to the Philippine visitor arrivals. In 2009 alone, they made up over 22% of total arrivals. Secretary Lim said that the specific segment to target are Filipinos in North America and Canada and the United States, as these are the two of most common origin points of visiting Filipinos. The North American market ranks a high second in terms of tourist arrivals to the country, and about 40 percent of them are either Filipino-American/Canadian. "Focusing on these two countries will make the most impact in terms of revenues, and we intend to develop this particular market segment group," he said.

DOT has partnered with Duty Free Philippines Corporation (DFPC) and Globe Telecom to support the said proclamation and support the declaration Balikbayan Program.

Together, DOT, DFPC and Globe Telecom are setting out a campaign that will become the starting point campaign for OFs, especially overseas Filipino organizations and business groups, to travel to the Philippines for reunions, conferences, missions or vacations. The campaign aims to kick-off on November and expected to fill the country as well as to encourage expansion and investments, and create opportunities for more Filipinos both locally and abroad.

Lorenzo E. Formoso, chief operating officer of DFPC adds, "Duty Free Philippines Corporation supports the DoT and Proclamation No. 161 which seeks to show appreciation for our modern heroes and shows gratitude for their contributions to our growing economy. Through the Balikbayan Program, DFPC continues to do its part in its commitment to boost development for the country's tourism and bring back kababayans an efficient shopping experience with all the warmth and hospitality of home."

Grand Riviera Suites

Live life at the Grand Riviera Suites... a luxury within your reach, soaring to the prestigious strip of Roxas Boulevard and dramatically offering the Manila skyline.

Amenities:

- Outdoor Swimming Pool
- Covered Lap Pool
- Kiddie Pool
- Children's Playroom
- Fitness Gym with Shower rooms and Lockers
- Jogging / Fitness Path
- Spa rooms / Pre-function Room
- Function Room
- WiFi Lounge/Internet Area
- Recreation Room
- Function Suites and Tea Area
- Reading Lounge Area with WiFi
- Rock Garden
- Pebble Walkpath / Toe Path
- Podium Garden
- Podium Lounge
- Toilet Rooms

For inquiries:
(632) 536.0079 / (63) 917.863.9474
www.moldex.com.ph/realty

A product of excellence
MOLDEX REALTY, INC.

a member of

East BEL-AIR RESIDENCES

Super Value-For-Money Condo Property at the East

Sta. Lucia Land Inc. - one of the country's most diversified residential and leisure property developer - has raised the concept of masterplanned condominium development to a new level.

Embodying this level up and ever to change the suburban skyline is the East Bel-Air Residences project on the cusp of Pasig and the progressive municipalities of Cainta and Taytay and Antipolo City.

The East Bel-Air offers perfect urban setting in a suburban and elegant contemporary setting. It's a new-form density development comprising of six buildings all of which are only six floors high, amazing spacious and experience living space and boasting of superior country-club facilities reminiscent of high-end resort properties that Sta. Lucia has developed time and time again.

It is a vertical housing development that suits the lifestyle and wants of the young, modern professional who craves of today.

Outstanding Value for Your Contemporary Lifestyle

At its price range, East Bel-Air offers superior value for money like no other development in the eastern area of Metro Manila.

Its close as location is a winner. It is just a stone's throw, 30-minute commute to and from the Ortigas business district on one side and 30-minute ride to and from the UP-Ayala technohub that gives the future occupants of this condo-to-be seamless access to conventional office and business districts and commercial centers throughout Metro Manila.

Moreover, it is just a 5-minute drive to the Sta. Lucia Center and another few minutes away to other well-known malls, churches and worship places, entertainment outpost and even hospitals and clinics.

On another level, it is a vertical residential condominium in a suburban setting with the most complete amenities: landscaped gardens, swimming pool and play area for the recreation of future residents, as well as a two-storey clubhouse with multi-purpose hall, lounge and function rooms for community activities and functions.

There, indeed, are perfect for today's young urban professional and start-up family.

Well-Defined Features for Well-Defined

East Bel-Air is perfect for the new young urban professional whose aspiration is to live in a condo that is up to par with the contemporary architecture and interior design of developments in the inner city. These inner city condos may offer functionality or proximity, but glaringly suffer from the lack of space, graciousness and resort-type amenities that provide quality of life for the occupants.

East Bel-Air possesses winning features that combines efficiency and functionality, on the one hand, and beauty and ample living spaces inside and outside units that promote more comfort, serenity and healthy lifestyle.

Most of the studio and one bedroom units have their own balcony that faces beautifully landscaped gardens and the open space along the main road. The main windows for all floors are designed to have broad windows at both ends, thus bringing in the fresh breeze from the Antipolo hills that provides natural ventilation and cooling to all the six buildings in the complex.

All units come fully finished using contemporary American design, along with its well-appointed kitchen, bath and other amenities and fixtures, in line with the fashionable theme of the master-planned one-building residential complex.

The Wisest Investment

For all these reasons, the unmistakable choice for the first-time single and newly married home owners aspiring to invest and set up their future homes is East Bel-Air.

It is ideal for single working guys and girls just born to live away out of college and the newly married couples who want to go on their own. Since the East Bel-Air is designed as a gated enclave, residents are assured of security and year-round maintenance of the gardens, pool and play area and common facilities.

East Bel-Air is targeted for the first homes of young men and women who are residents of Pasig, Marikina, Cainta, Taytay, Antipolo City, Angono and even Binangonan and Cardona who have become employed or started their own families. Likewise, it is a wise and investment-worthy point home for working professionals who want the convenience of staying in a highly liveable community during working days, and who would want to go to their original homes in the eastern part of Rizal.

Moreover, parents - who Filipino and generous as they are - can invest and bestow the East Bel-Air studio or single bedroom unit to their sons and daughters as gift once hey cannot be away from home.

Exclusively marketed by:

MEGA EAST PROPERTIES, INC.

Developed by:

STA. LUCIA LAND INC.
Building Better Lives

For inquiries, please call (02) 681-7459 or email at info@megaeast.com.ph

ROADTALK Saturday

Run, Swim, Swing. But First: Drive!

Perfect vehicles for those post-summer sporting activities

By Jason K. Ang

SUMMER may be officially over in our country (just look outside your window), but it doesn't mean that we have to shift from active to sedentary. The couch may cry out for company, accompanied by a sleep-inducing rainy day soundtrack. But the opportunity to break into a sweat, whether indoors or outdoors, is still worth grabbing, whenever there are a few hours of sunshine that peep through. To make the journey just as enjoyable as the sport, we've taken the liberty of pairing up some activities.

THE Prius is Toyota's king of fuel mileage.

Running: Perhaps the most environmentally friendly of all sports, all you need are two pairs of shoes and lungs. A favorite venue for walking and running is the UP Circle, whether you're headed to or from your office or just looking for a nice, leisurely walk on the way to the Toyota Prius, which, when it comes to fuel mileage, is the king of the hybrids. Its 1.8-liter engine can run on gasoline or electricity, or both at the same time. When driving Toyota's king of fuel mileage, you can feel good that not only are you covering a lot of kilometers without doing harm to the environment, you are continuing the journey even as you drive home after your run.

Yoga: A stretching, slimming, and in Bikram, a sweat-inducing activity, Yoga is excellent for improving the body's suppleness. Thankfully there's no need for a contortion when climbing in to the Mitsubishi ASX. Its big point is ideally located for easy ingress and egress, no matter what state your limbs are in. Its doors, including the rears, open wide for easy access to a right-sized interior that belies the compact exterior.

Hiking: This activity may be as easy as trekking up a hill, or as strenuous as a climb on mount Mount Pinatubo. But reasons Kiid require topic-based transition, the Ford Ranger just can't be beaten. Featuring a 2.5-liter common rail diesel, the Kiid pulls mightily—it's not dubbed the Hard Dog for nothing. 100 Mbps and a low-speed transfer case ensures that the Ranger can bring you there, and just as importantly, bring you safely home.

Golf: Showing up at the country club in an eco-sensitive vehicle can be just as important as your backswing. Continuing the style of an automotive icon with the versatility of crossover is the Volvo V60. Following the dynamic styling of its S60 sedan sibling, the V60 takes the a coupe look, while retaining the extra load capacity of a wagon, perfect for easily loading golf bags. What's more, the V60 T5 is powered by a turbocharged engine, giving it fuel-saving acceleration.

Basketball: The Hyundai Santa Fe's generous interior proportions make it suitable for teams, pairing five basketball players plus two coaches in the third row. Players of NBA stature may find themselves scraping the head liner, but for average level players will find plenty of head and shoulder room in Hyundai's midsize crossover. The Santa Fe is now powered by a new-generation diesel engine, giving it plenty of grunt even when fully loaded.

Cycling: It's not uncommon to see SUVs and crossovers loaded with bicycles on their roof racks, on the way to some challenging trail. The Audi Q5 is a one of the few vehicles that actually adapts to its load, including objects placed on its roof. The Q5's electronic stability program (ESP) incorporates a sensor that knows when a roof rack is fitted, and then computes that the center of gravity will now be higher. When the roof rack carry as much as 100 kg of weight, the effect can be substantial. Audi's ESP works to counter for unbalanced tubes. The Q5 is an oldie, it's that successful, but it's still a good choice, with its 2.0 engine pumps out 211 hp and 350 Nm at just 1,500 rpm.

www.jac.net.ph

Maximum Performance at Reasonable Cost!

JAC MOTORS Drive Progress

CITIPONY
• Fuel efficient and eco-friendly
• Equipped with ABS (Wheel Speed Sensor)

PRINCE
• 2.5L 16 Valve
• 21 Seater

REIN
• Robust engine power
• Spacious interior with high class trim

JAC Refine MPV JAC Rainbow Pick-up

JAC Forklift JAC Cruiser JAC Gallop

JAC MAIN SHOWROOMS: Luzon Area: Mandaluyong: Shaw Blvd. cor. Pioneer St. • Tel. 633-1888 • Fax: (632) 633-0870 • Email: sales@jac.net.ph • Website: www.jac.net.ph

Mandaluyong: Luzon City (02)533-1111 • Ugb. Kiona (2): (02)531-9999 • Makati: (02)899-7733 • A. Bonifacio (2): (02)817-3333 • Cainta: (02)656-6666 • Cavite: (046)431-7676 • Novaliches: (02)353-8888 • Caloocan: (02)365-9111 • Laguna: (049)541-0111 • Marikina: (02)646-0139 • Pasay: (02)832-0139 • Quezon: (02)440-0628 • Subic: (047)252-2124 • Quezon Ave.: (02)924-1430 / (02)925-0778

Run, Swim, Swing. But First: Drive!

From page B-1

Windsurfing: Traveling in style to exotic locations, particularly where the weather is exotic, can get pretty lousy. On less-severe driving, a Subaru Outback. With its lower center of gravity thanks to its trademark drivetrain, the Outback can claim its way through any slippery road, thanks to its symmetrical all-wheel drive system. The Outback's interior is also versatile, allowing for transport of long objects such as a surfboard.

Cascade Belonging: When going for a work-out, the Gas is still at the center. The drive home is usually a time for winding down and meditating to a more sedate pace. But our midsize Chevrolet Cruze doesn't. The diesel engine makes quick work of getting to the track, while still providing decent fuel economy. The drive home won't lack for excitement, either, thanks to the Cruze's firm suspension and responsive handling.

Archbishop: Towing your pride is to the beach doesn't necessarily require a tough-and-rumble pickup truck. Just as capable of pulling a trailer is the all-new Honda Biz-ranger, recently launched by CARS Motors. The Bizranger is powered by a 1.5-liter i-VTEC engine producing 120 hp and 152 Nm, specifications previously the province of V6 engines. With its load-leveling rear suspension, the Bizranger can tow 2500 kg. Its three rows of seats can seat eight in supreme comfort, and the SUV is equipped with a host of other cargo-management systems, so that the journey will be just as fun as the destination.

Birding: Going to a remote beach requires a vehicle with sufficient ground clearance and plenty of traction. BMW's new X3 has a re-engineered all-wheel drive system combined with a self-aware transfer case that can put to the front- or rear-wheel drive for more control. The X3 has a steep water-wade depth rating, in case you forget to bring an up-to-date car-counter to trunk them. The X3's cargo flat-fits enough room for two adult bicycles and a set of golf clubs, leaving up plenty of space both within and under the trunk.

Tennis: Thanks to its compact T3 advertising, we can hardly picture a kit without Roland Dalid galloping in the front ground. So what better way to help Jerry yourself in the team a court than the all-new Kia Sportage? Sporting a new-found stylish that wouldn't look out of place on a European marque, the new crossover has 1.39 liters of cargo space behind its front seats, enough for an entire season's worth of tennis rackets.

Shark launches Crystalmat in Grand 3-Ring Motoring

SHARK, the leader in quality vehicle innovations, launched its latest product, Crystalmat, at the motor's field festival Lifting Motoring event. The event was the perfect opportunity to show car owners how to keep their floors neat, clean and protected with Shark's newest luxury item Crystalmat, which does for car interiors what Shark's other line of accessories does for the exteriors: keep cars and their passengers safe without sacrificing aesthetic value and functionality.

Crystalmat is Shark's response to the industry's need to develop mats that not only protect the interior carpeting but also one that stays firmly in place. Many auto-mobile accidents have been attributed to a mat slipping out of place and causing the driver's foot to press on the accelerator or brake pedals inadvertently or, even worse, hamper a driver's access to the brake pedal to avoid collisions.

To ensure that users of its superior safety features, Crystalmat has been custom-manufactured specifically for every car model. No more is universal or one-size-fits-all. After all, one of the reasons auto owners hesitate to let their cars out to fit the contours of a vehicle's floorboard and therefore, creating an uneven and improper fitting. In addition, Crystalmat is also fitted with Velcro clips, clamping the mat in place and ensuring that it will not shift position to avoid slipping. Clearly, safety is Crystalmat's top priority.

As for its other features, Crystalmat is made up of robust, engine-or high-grade rubber compound that lives up the best traits it uses to durability while not hiding the original's luxury aspect. It also makes cleaning after automated maintenance as much easier with its unique elevated perimeter rising that keeps dirt and spills contained over the carpet.

Contact Shark at 371-2444 or 4337837 or visit www.sharkphil.com for more details.

Audi's 10th Year Victory in 2011, 79th edition of Le Mans 24 Hour Endurance Race

Audi's perfect run covering distance in 24 hours

4838.295

Victory for Audi

10

79th edition of Le Mans 24 Hours Endurance Race 2011

249,500

Audi setting the pace

3.25.289

The [BES] deal

Trade-in opportunity for a brand new Mercedes-Benz B-, E- or S-Class

GATX Motors, Inc. (GATX), Philippine General Distributor of Mercedes-Benz, will be having a TRADE-UP WEEKEND on January 1 to 3, 2011. Cars can be traded in at highly appraised rates for a brand new B-Class, E-Class or S-Class. This includes choice classic/casual cars, a unique chance to commute up to 1 year, and a free iPad 2 for any Mercedes-Benz traded purchased during this weekend. Special trade-in packages are also available for ALL other Mercedes-Benz models.

Owning a Mercedes-Benz is a great deal per se, but here are a few other reasons why it is the best deal.

Worry-free Driving: Mercedes-Benz Service ExcelBenz

For GATX, "customer service" does not stop on the sale of the unit. Purchasing Mercedes-Benz from GATX comes with an assurance that the utmost care for YOU and your car will be given, especially when you drive/ownit it. For valued GATX customers, Emergency Roadside Assistance service is offered to upon 24/7. In the event of a vehicular accident or a highly technical/mechanical problem, Mercedes-Benz owners are deployed on a first, professional, and efficient assistance by dialing 817-GATX (817 4289).

As general distributor of Mercedes-Benz, GATX's benefits not only in the premium vehicles it offers but the service it readily renders to all the employed Benz users' Mr. Wilfredo Ong, GATX's president and chief executive officer, said. "Service excellence is the cornerstone of our business and we are committed to continuously improve the customer experience in every touch point."

Also, from June 27 to July 1, 2011, GATX will hold a Mercedes-Benz Service Clinic. FREE Mercedes-Benz service check-ups with Mercedes-Benz service expert Ms. Bernaine Perlo, a brand expert taken from UK-based in Founder Gogo.

Mercedes-Benz B-Class

Perlo is an expert in Mercedes-Benz technology and has been with the Mercedes-Benz Global City service unit located in the 32nd Street corner Rizal Drive, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on the said dates.

Mercedes-Benz: Value Retention Champion

Power Online and Pride is Para Rotecana have named the Mercedes-Benz B-Class one of the 2011 "Standout Value Cars." Over the next four years, the B-Class will suffer the smallest percentage decline in resale value within their respective vehicle classes.

These Mercedes-Benz cars were among the vehicles with the smallest depreciation, as announced in Euro. The best performance in the compact "car segment" is achieved by the B-Class, which will sell at 51.5 percent of the original price. It also includes the S-Class in the luxury class segment and the E-Class in the upper midrange segment. Mercedes-Benz rides its luxe also regularly beat among the value retention

Mercedes-Benz E-Class

Mercedes-Benz S-Class

New car quality takes a hit due to technology

DETROIT—Automakers, eager to meet consumers' demands for new technology, have been racing to add gadgets to their dashboards, from hookup cameras to touch-screen climate controls.

But an influential survey suggests they need to slow down, because the technology is taking a toll on quality.

Drivers reported more problems with their all-new or redesigned 2011 models than they did the year before, according to J.D. Power and Associates' annual survey of new vehicle quality, released on Thursday. Complaints about audio, entertainment and navigation systems got the bulk of the blame, and are up 20 percent since 2007.

The survey questioned 78,000 people about problems they had with 2011 model-year vehicles in the first 90 days of ownership. Owners reported an average of 147 problems per 100 vehicles. That jumped to 122 problems for cars that were new or redesigned for 2011, up 10 percent from 2010 model-year cars and trucks.

Overall, automakers got better scores than last year, because many carried over previous models into 2011 without major changes. Lexus, Honda and Acura were the top performers, all with less than 120 problems. Dodge was the worst-performing brand.

But new cars with new technology were a problem. They proved to be the downfall for Ford, which dropped from a 120th-place spot (98) ranking in 2010 to 23rd this year.

Ford launched its MyFord Touch dashboard system on the Ford Edge and Ford Explorer crossovers in the 2011 model year. The system allows drivers to control climate, navigation, entertainment and other features by voice or through a touch screen.

Ford says 75 percent of owners with MyFord Touch are they're satisfied with the system. The company wants to help drivers do the things they're already doing — making calls, answering texts, playing music — without taking their hands off the wheel.

"This is a trend we can't ignore," said Mark Fields, Ford's president of the Americas, in an event earlier this week.

But the company acknowledges that MyFord Touch is complex and has been difficult for some buyers to use. Owners have also complained that the system takes a long time to boot up. It also has many glitches, including failing to recognize voice commands or properly link up with mobile phones.

Ford says it has made software updates to improve the system. It is now offering workshops at dealerships to help owners get more familiar with the system.

"We expected mixed quality results this year, after closely listening to our customers. This same feedback now shows that we largely met both customer needs while addressing some areas ripe to focus," Ford's Fields said in a statement Thursday.

J.D. Power didn't single out Ford, but said automakers need to be realistic use technology to easy for people to operate while they're driving.

Automakers must ensure that the technology is ready for prime time," said David Sargent, J.D. Power's vice president of global research.

The Toyota brand saw a big leap in quality, jumping 14 spots to seventh place. Toyota's 2010 rankings were hurt by a series of safety recalls. Also, Toyota introduced five new products for 2011, so it didn't experience the glitches other manufacturers did.

Toyota's Lexus luxury brand moved up three spots to take the lead in the survey from Porsche. Lexus had 73 problems per 100 vehicles. Dodge, the worst performing brand overall, had 197 problems per 100 vehicles.

Cadillac and GMC, both General Motors Co. brands, and Mazda rounded out the top six performers this year. Hyundai, Ford and Ford Motor Co.'s Lincoln luxury brand dropped out of the top ten.

Honda was the best performer in segment-level awards.

AP

LDAP RENTAL Past officers of the Lady Drivers Association of the Philippines (LDAP) were recently in Makati to discuss major concerns for the club in its sixty-second year. Left to right – Cora Dalisma, founding president; Ada Emilia Mendoza, Susy Matos, Connie Perigon Gatmaitan and Dr. Mary Calalang.

2b LIFESTYLE

Lessons from the 'School of Life'

By Marianne Cruz
Student contributor, 2010

IME to commence a new chapter in your life. And a chapter is one where we never worry about all college life. Try to prepare yourself for what it has to offer: everything bigger, broader, and brighter.

College is a whole new experience after high school. We meet faculties here on great you, as you'll be meeting new ones. There's nothing to be afraid of, though, since all of you are feeling the same way.

College life is quite a journey. It's assumed that what you'll be doing in college is what you'll be doing for the rest of your life. But I beg to differ; the only constant thing in this world is change. It's too early to say it is true.

Due it no longer sheltered when one goes to college. Even learning is no longer confined to the four corners of the classroom. Scary as it sounds, it will develop you into a mature person. It's this now-found independence — that's important — pushing yourself out of your comfort zone to discover a whole new world.

Typically, some factors are broken, making you more independent than you've ever been. For instance, commuting alone to school gives you the sense of handling your own time, budgeting your money, guarding yourself from strangers, and finding your own way.

> There's nothing to be afraid of. You're starting with a clean slate. A plate full of opportunities is waiting. It's up to you to make the most of everything

New people

In college, you will have various sets of classmates, depending on the subjects, so you're bound to constantly meet new people. You could share your recommendations and learn from each other's differences. And talking to different types of people gives you different perspectives. It will make you realize how much you actually don't know about the world around you.

What I love most is that college will force you to explore not just your surroundings, but yourself. How you ever asked yourself, "Who am I?" You're finding out who you are at this point in, and defining yourself as a person. You'll find yourself asking constantly: "What is one thing I'd love to do for the rest of your life?" Make use of this time in college to learn more about yourself.

This is the best time to learn, experiment, to focus on advancing your skills. Studying things by the book won't exactly help you land your dream job. Whatever it is—go ahead, build on it. Do it more than what your school is offering.

Bonnie Beaver, a fashion stylist, says, "Not knowing shouldn't stop you, all the more it should urge you to want to learn more." But knowing a little is also not good enough. It may be better than nothing, yet it won't help set the bar at you. There's nothing better than feeling yourself with new knowledge.

Don't wait for the opportunity to come. Make the opportunity for yourself. Challenge yourself. There's no guarantee it wouldn't have you along the way, but there's life! What doesn't kill you will only make you stronger. It will always be nice to look back, see how much you've developed, and feel yourself tasting the sweets of life.

As for college, there's nothing to be afraid of. You're starting with a clean slate. A plate full of opportunities is waiting. It's up to you to make the most out of everything. Enjoy the journey. Learn and get a taste of life. As Steve Jobs would say when it comes to success and learning, "Stay hungry, stay foolish."

inside

- La Salian and proud
- Green army

Flying colors

Walk on the wild side and mix prints in the same shade, but choose small pieces so as not to drown yourself in all those hues.

Blouse and shorts, Forever 21; sleeveless blouse, Zara; leggings, Forever 21

Dot and smell

Pair a large print with a small one in the same color palette to create a harmonious look.

On Pauline: Blazer, tank top, and shorts, Zara; boots, Dorothy Perkins. On Michelle: Tank top, Topshop; pants, Zara; boots, Michael Antonio

Get picky

Choose low-printed pieces as your main statement, pick a color or detail from that garment to accessorize with...or to echo the pattern

On Pauline: Tank top, Forever 21; clutch, Topshop; wedge shoes, Michael Antonio. On Michelle: Dress, Zara; sunnies/belt, Forever 21

Fine finish

Mixed prints can even mismatched patterns, but keep in mind that color coordination is key.

On Pauline: Satin top and sunglasses, Forever 21; shorts, stylist's own. On Michelle: Bandeau, Forever 21; palazzo pants, Zara

Print *it*

Mix-match prints with style, from painterly florals and lady-like dots to bold stripes

AS A MINIMUM of prints is definitely an eyesore, gone are the days when mixing prints makes you look like you grabbed what you could from your closet and dashed out the door. Now, painterly florals and lady-like dots, to bold stripes, a mix of prints can give you the perfect sartorial edge, if done right.

All for one

If you're one to slip many it can be many prints, try wearing related shades to go with a patterned print-set.

Playsuit, bangles, and wedge shoes, Forever 21

Fairytale beauty

The newest makeup brand to hit Manila is all about fantasy and storybook endings

SHIMMERY NOW Mystic make yours eyes sparkle

By Tobi Ying
Contributor

CHEEK color inspired by French macarons

FRAGRANCE with a touch of blush color

THE BRAND parenthesizes ethereal and pretty packaging

BRING the good hands of Japanese brand Mayelva Mizuwa, the brand explained the name through a fairytale of a plain girl in search of something to magically transform her into a thing of beauty. Indeed, most women regard makeup as a thing of magic. Little pots, pull-out pie of transformation, with enormous, instant power to impart confidence.

With its name sound-ing like an incantation found in a spellbook, Mayelva Mizuwa's line of beauty products is geared to souls dazzled girls who love fairytales, Prince Charmings, and happy endings, not to mention makeup in pretty packaging. You'll want to constantly touch up and powder your nose, thanks to their engraved gold "powder" compact, which you can refill with powder to your exact shade.

Each collection in the brand is interconnected, a chapter to a seasonal storybook, beginning with Spring's Regency Drop, an assortment of pastry-inspired shades and flavors, like mocha-colored blush to pastel rims and creamy cheek-lit tones.

This season, another chapter in the storybook is opened with Fake Shopping, a devoted and more adventurous set featuring sparkly true drop eyeliners, and an splendiferously fruity fragrance called Mayonnaiseries, packaged in a bottle resembling a love potion. Fake Shopping is an ideal set whose story revolves around the Princess Smiley awakening in a kiss from a Prince after a hundred years' slumber.

Tips on how to wear tear drop eyeliner:

JAPANESE makeup artist Sawako Yuzi demonstrated the Fake Shopping collection and gave tips on how to wear tear-ish eyeliner.

Aurora Teal Liner was designed to tweak the glistening eye lit on eyes and helps to make it look brighter and cheeky. You can use the tear liner alone or on top of your favorite eyeliner. Just make sure to apply it on top of your original liner after it's dried.

For a glittering look, you can also apply it to the upper and lower lips of eyelashes for a sparkling teardrop effect.

Mayelva Mizuwa cosmetics are exclusively located at select SM department stores and Watsons.

La Sallian and *proud*

By Maureen Manuel
Student contributor, 2GSE

June 16 was a day filled with fun activities that brought the La Sallian community together as one as plans to celebrate 100 years of La Sallian presence in the Philippines.

It started with an electrifying dance by the La Salle Dance Company to the music of "Live It Up" by Immortal. The energy from the excitement was so contagious, it made everyone joined the dance. The Filipino standard Pinoy Dayuan were simultaneously dancing along to make.

At 8 pm, the students from different colleges line up along Taft Ave for the Green Mile, to show their green love. There were street parties and concerts after the parade that lasted until 11 in the evening. Bonfires, fireworks, and Rimfire were among the bands that played during the concert session.

PROPS up. Opening man-stitcher sees musical star-audience during the Green Mile activity La Salle alumni singing the Alma Mater hymn.

Alumni tribute

Aside from the street parties and events at the Amphitheater, "Swing Down Centennial Shoes" was held in Tennis Volleyball Hall, where La Sallian alumni remembered their college years and thanked their professors.

Director Jose Jacoy Reyes, university alumnus and professor, headed the tribute documentary that acknowledged outstanding La Salle alumni and inspiring professors, and highlighted the achievements of La Salle through the years.

Guests were serenaded by celebrity La Sallians like Gary E. Rando Santiago, Bernie Almadies, Myra Valmido and Ryan Quijon. Gab Valenciano danced with the DZSC dance in the tune of Tyrez Legaspi's comeback track, and The Dawn also performed.

The night before the celebration, DLSU had been trending over Twitter. The students were excited and ready to have fun and show their alumni spirit. The centennial celebration didn't disappoint, and now to claim. Academic played the night over the celebration.

"It feels really great! It's a once-in-a-lifetime, and I'm here to experience this with all of my batchmates and schoolmates."

and third year student Louise Arnaiz. "It's really a wonderful feeling, seeing everyone with the La Sallian Spirit."

"We felt a certain drama up. It really burning," said Andrew Ural, a fourth year Interdepartment Studies and Finance student.

For Nicole Lirio, fourth year advertising Management student, the whole celebration was more festive. "It made me feel relevant," she added.

"It's a memorable experience because the Centennial Celebration only happens once every hundred years," said Adrian Go, third year Marketing Management student.

Jampacked

The whole school was jampacked with an estimated number of at least 10,000 people. President of the student government Gabe Ingalao attributed the successful celebration to the community. "Everybody in the community is willing to give, all sectors in La Salle contributed to its success," he said.

Celebrity host of "Kissing Mr. Lee Ching Pimentel, a La Salle alumnus, shared what she learned from the years of education. "I developed my sense of self here. When I got here, it helped me learn who I'm supposed to be," she reflects. "They encouraged you to live your life."

TV personality Edu Manzano shared his message with the younger green archers: "Hug the moment. Seize the day. Carpe diem."

He continued, "Every time you come to La Salle, it is your time! Don't let it pass. You have to live life. Participate as much as you can. Be the player, not an onlooker. We're movers and shakers."

The ceremonial celebration was highlighted by a 30-minute grand pyro-musical display to cap the day's festivities. It was truly a perfect day to remember, to be inspired, and to be proud of La Salle.

DRONG the night with a grand pyro-musical display

Green *army*

They came in green and white, and in style

By Maureen Manuel
Student contributor, 2GSE

"I WAS so by that all La Sallians were flooded by the opening ceremony of the Centennial Celebrations. Most wore DLSU graphic shirts in colors of green and white, while some students celebrated not only with a La Sallian Spirit but also in style.

COLLEEN CORONACION, 19, Information Systems

"I DIYed my shirt for today so I can be different. I am excited to celebrate the Centennial." "I love La Salle more than dinner" Jade Ira

GENARO PEREZ, modeling

"I'm not a real La Salle student but I'm celebrating it anyway cuz La Salle's fresh!"

AVI VILLAVERDE, 22, Biology

"My mood today! I'm feeling the Animo Spirit."

BJORN BERARDO, Multimedia Arts, CSB

He's wearing a shirt that he designed. He said he was proud to be born La Salle.

Advertorial

PEDIGREE gives dog owners 5 big reasons to smile.

Pilipinos are known for treating their pets as family. In parks, malls, and even parties, you can see people and their dogs walking side by side – sometimes the canines are even dressed up like people. Even the food given to them are anything but ordinary. Often they eat what the family eats or are served specially-prepared meals. The question is: How does one know if their pets are in the pink of health?

A healthy dog has the PEDIGREE 5-Signs of Good Health: Healthy Shiny Coat, Firm Stool Quality, Strong Bones & Teeth, Strong Muscles and is always Cheerful & Active! Your dog needs food that is highly digestible so that he can absorb nutrients to be healthy and happy.

PEDIGREE Dog Food is a nutritionally complete and balanced meal that contains calcium and phosphorus for strong bones and teeth; omega 6 for healthy skin and coat; vitamins and minerals for the body's effective system; protein for strong muscles; and dietary fibre for digestive systems.

We put these two owners through a six-week feeding programme to prove that PEDIGREE ensures optimal health in dogs.

Pedigree

5 signs of good health™

- HEALTHY SHINE COAT
- firm stool quality
- strong bones & teeth
- strong muscles
- cheerful & active

Thanks PEDIGREE! Sam couldn't have done it without you.

Sam is naturally affectionate and playful since young. She would greet me every time I come home.

We had her home cooked food like rice, beef, fish and chicken. We consider her as one of our own so whatever we give her is the same food we eat.

I joined the PEDIGREE 5-Signs of Good Health Campaign hoping that Sam would get even stronger and more beautiful. After feeding her with PEDIGREE for six weeks, I noticed that she became more active, her muscles became more prominent and her fur became more fine and shiny. She has also become more loving.

I am very happy with the changes I've seen in Sam after feeding her PEDIGREE. The experience taught me that feeding her with the right food makes a big difference to her well-being.

We now enjoy longer hours of playtime together with my other dog."

Carrie, 52, owner of Sam

Carrie & Sam

Before

After 3 weeks

After 6 weeks

The healthy and happy Ashley in just 6 weeks. Thanks PEDIGREE!

Ashley is a 2-year-old Shih Tzu and an adorable part of our family but he had weight that and a thin body which was worried about.

I joined the PEDIGREE 5-Signs of Good Health Campaign to see changes in my dog – to improve his diet and see him participate actively in our family activities.

Throughout the campaign, we had to slowly taper off our cooking and give him PEDIGREE Dry Dog Food. After just six weeks, his condition improved and he's more active and playful. Not only that, he's got more furnew and has become heavier as well!

I am happy that in a short span of time, I've seen much improvement in my favorite pet which I believe won't be easily achieved on a home-cooked diet."

Jay-Ar, owner of Ashley

Jay & Ashley

Before

After

PEDIGREE Dog Food is developed and tested by vets and nutritionists at the World's Leading Authority on Pet Care and Nutrition, WALTHAM Centre. It has also surpassed all dog nutritional testing requirements of the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) and National Research Council of the U.S. National Academy of Science in tests.

To know more about the PEDIGREE 6-week feeding programme, visit www.pedigree.com.ph

©Mars, 2011

super LIFESTYLE
Style . Urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Editor
Thelma Sioson San Juan
Associate Editor
Pam Pancho

A Bloody Good Time

Muay Thai's violent and honorable challenge

By Tricia Yong

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED. The Challenger Muay Thai fans Stephen Fox with trainers Hamsorsing and Nugget.

BETTERS are hooters and my dad, I am usually outnumbered and outscreamed when a return to sports shows on TV. There's basketball mornings, midnight football matches, tennis, and of course Manny Pacquiao fights and UFC matches for my blood thirsty brother. I find that of all the sporting events on TV, I can't bear to watch fighting bouts as I start cringing once the blood converges, and soon the fight turns bloody. I find myself on the verge of crying, feeling immense pity for the hurt ones.

So, imagine my consternation when I found myself inside a hot, roaring ringsored in Malaysia, where all eyes were on a little square-off square with two bloodied men pouring and thrusting, using hands, elbows, knees and feet in an attempt to knock each other down. Without the voice of a commentator to describe each blow, the sound of well-placed punch making hard contact to the gut or a feet solidly landing against a jaw were sharp, painful cracks—and the blood that vaulted in that man's bright red bursts of TV screens. Awfully drama blood really is evidently red in the flesh.

This is Muay Thai, a martial arts form from Thailand employing the use of punches, kicks, elbows and knee strikes. Most of the fighters look lean, almost skinny, but they possess that sinewy pack specks of the strength beneath the ruby muscles, not to mention the shiny sweat sheen.

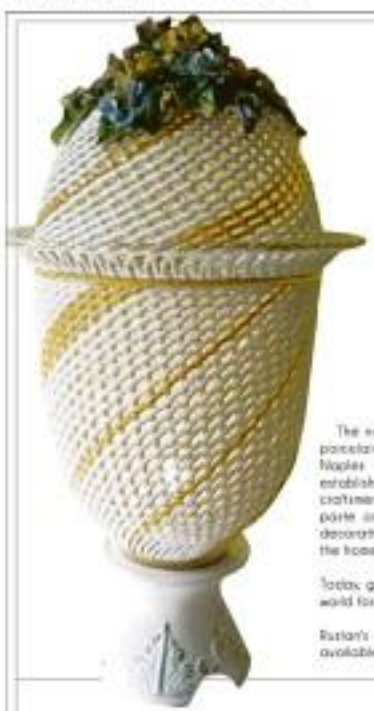
Fighting not only strength, but strategy, Muay Thai is a test in brutal, raw and feet coordination, agility and speed. It is a brutal yet beautiful dance, ungoverned by spirituality and respect, as followers of the sport will have during the organizer Hal Ellen (much pitched by each players wearing the ring, which signifies spirit and worship of God, the unity of brain and soul, and movement of strength in between the fighter's will.

I never understood why boxing was called a "gentleman's sport", but after seeing these players push their bodies to the limits of sport and emerge still graceful and humble, and even happy for the success of their opponent, it is indeed worthy of the name.

This year ASN brings in high definition a different kind of fighting competition in The Challenger Muay Thai. Produced by The Imagine Group, this not-to-miss features the best fighters from different parts of the globe and will have them fight it out to win the title of Muay Thai World Champion and $100,000. The entire series will take place in Malaysia and will be hosted by renowned Muay Thai overseer Stephen Fox, who will also serve as mentor to the fighters together with resident trainers Hamsorsing and Nugget.

"These are no amateurs in the arena. They've proven their chops in different fights and competitions, and The Challenger Muay Thai is a battle among the best of the best. It will be an exciting, bloody good time for TV as The Challenger Muay Thai makes it way to screens across Asia soon.

The Challenger Muay Thai is premiering on ASN in the fourth quarter of 2011.



Rustan's & Metrobank Card

in celebration of

Bella Patria

Italian Festival 2011

THE PASSION OF CAPODIMONTE

A touch of elegance in each stroke and every piece

The name "Capodimonte" is synonymous with the finest quality of porcelain and ceramics. It originated in 1759 when King Charles of Naples developed a passion for decorative porcelain and established the Royal Factory in Capodimonte. There, skilled craftsmen perfected the art of molding, painting, and firing hard paste ceramics to produce these exquisite porcelain trees, how decorative pieces like flowers and sculptures to everyday objects for the home like vases, bowls and snuff boxes.

Today, genuine Capodimonte porcelain is highly prized all over the world for its rich history, detailed craftsmanship, and enduring beauty.

Rustan's invites you to bring home these elegant pieces from Italy, available at the home department.

Authentic Capodimonte hand-painting

Featuring special guest

Dario Rossi from Italy

to talk about his passion for Capodimonte

The Art of Capodimonte Workshop Schedule

June 24 | Friday, 3:00pm
5th Floor, Rustan's Makati

June 25 | Saturday, 3:00pm
Crowd Atrium, Shangri-La Plaza

June 26 | Sunday, 3:00pm
Rustan's Alabang Town Center

June 28 | Tuesday, 3:00pm
Activity Center, Rustan's Cebu

Printed and distributed by Newspaper Direct
www.newspaperdirect.com 800.Call.Mail Mon-Fri 8:00AM-5:00PM
COPYRIGHT AND PHOTO USE RESTRICTIONS APPLY

The dot makes a point

By Christina Mae Calimpusan

I FIRST heard about Pink Dot a year ago, and I was actually surprised that such an event existed in Singapore. I always thought homosexuality was taboo in Singapore, and when I asked my col. league about it, she told me that being gay or lesbian is not openly tolerated, especially in this conservative scene.

I guess that's really why "dots with pink around it" in every place and the Singapore Pink Dot movement, ality and gender equality.

When I saw Pink Dot's campaign videos this year, I felt that it finally addressed the silence about homosexuality in the country. The strong message of "freedom to love" especially for everything the group wanted to tell. It was an extraordinary experience.

I'm saying this because I used to be one of those people who had no faith. Little may I had a "phase"—this was some people have to go through before they'll mean very complicated than watching my every move and keeping dialogues cool. But not being able to see the "L word" and speaking in hushed tones when I talked about it with my friends.

At some point that from suffering judged and discovered there are more. There was some time ago, but I still wish I knew how I could have dots with it.

Unforgettable experiences

It is always fascinating how people from different countries or races share the same sentiments about what moves them to live. The Pink Dot movement is truly a unifying experience, and I felt a universal sentiment and marked oneness. It provided a sense of belonging. Singapore. Everyone around us knew we, regardless.

I remember smiling while looking around the sea of pink before me, while I hoping there were still dots out there in my own country. I keep wishing that still of us know the necessity to overcome fear and ignorance, and just learn to accept who we are.

Learning how much the campaign has grown since it started three years ago. Today, over 9 thousand people—almost double the previous year—attended the event. Only permanent and, dress and Singaporeans were allowed to form the dot, but with the 10,000 people (including foreigners) present,

THE ARTHO Ecclesiague's Pink Dot event

In this manner,

The fight for equality has a long way to go. The change the people who formed the dot mean in their country will not happen overnight. But with people showing full support and being open-minded about acceptance, it's off to a very good start.

FILM REVIEW

Ryan Reynolds: The actor behind the green mask

JUST as character Hal Jordan is chosen as the first human to wear the Green Lantern ring, Ryan Reynolds, as the first actor to bring Green Lantern to the big screen, knew he'd have an entire legion of fans looking to him to live up to the task. He didn't let the possible pressure take its toll, taking the lead role of teenage high-flying Hal Jordan and his superheroics, in striking resemblance.

"What I love about Hal is that there's nothing extraordinary about the guy" Reynolds says of the Green Lantern Corps' unwitting pitcher. "Of course, he's awesome, usually your average human being, in terms of what he does for a living, but the dude's got issues. He's not an instant example of his greatness. He's just a guy and a fairly irresponsible one at that, though there are of course reasons for his irresponsibleness."

Those reasons stem back to his youth, but have remained unresolved—purposely ignored, really—in Hal's adulthood, as he doesn't open him when out of nowhere he's chosen for the ultimate calling. Throughout the course of the film Hal will have to tackle his deepest fears himself, but where this gift is initially hesitant it opens him, till he can really push his limits. "Were you ready for this?" is "Help me!"

Though Hal may wonder why the ring chose him, "Why Hal?" was never a question the filmmakers asked themselves in casting Reynolds for the part.

Ryan is a matter-of-fact" director Martin Campbell says. "He's a guy originally from the east, he's amusing, funny and has a great sense of humour. I knew he could really pull off both the action and dramatic elements. He's got the ability to be physical, charismatic, but also somewhat of a bad boy

Shoot and collect

By Nasrudin Yunus

First things first. Account set? Check. Make sure the remaining app friends and myself? Check. Let the treasure hunt game... I wish I had continuing photography with a scavenger hunt in it! Sure, I'd still have to play solo but at least I'd be able to see the game.

Looking for a fun new thing to do? Try a photo scavenger hunt, and marvel at the endless possibilities

Scallop is an app I was more than intrigued about when I read the words "photo", "scavenger" and "hunt" together. My mind began to race, and I was ready to take a whole bunch of pictures with me.

But what would the thought to would still like it still? Listen to this: Why, girls! Let's do this thing where we use the smartphone and the new words looking for 21 items on this list, we make up the pictures of them, and then display them during a potluck party and vote and tonight then we can even draw... no scavenger hunt? Where? It was mine. Everybody gets on board.

Nobody, though, tried to share such ideas, and instead of fun, we were sure thinking more about how to use and gallivanting over scavenger an hour to pick each item off the list every day.

What you, we're all busy bodies, with more important things to do with our free time than run around the city snapping pictures of anything remotely identifiable on the list. Some were bad to be out of town, during the allotted one week period, while some were common to the field.

Getting an invitation to a group was a trial. I kept on the case, but to eventually share the list request upon a few "no-brainer" shots.

A list of the items on the list we picked from an online sample list like "a green bench" "someone doing a somersault" and "water cream wearing [unspecified] in their hands". Others we picked in ourselves ("inside a place" and "wrinkle a child and place").

Picnic party

At the picnic party date followed, we would discover that nobody got to take a shot of their entire team as scavenger hunters gigglebelt! Instead!

It would be an understatement to say that we all had a good job. The photo gallery (name it by a blank wall in the office where we displayed our "finds") was littered with amusing images, and the entire festival thread with laughter and hilarious.

Under the "treasure hunt" category was an oddity. With two teams also working in double playgrounds was a colourfully blurred my house shot around to have well, bounced. One treasure hunt was found that she realised what a bounce house was on by the smiling face.

The rest of us proceeded directly around the corner to pick snaps in the house leading up to the bedtime, deciding what date we did potentially repeat (well she climbed a pillar in the middle of the sidewalk and did a "Down Dog" pose).

But then "Arts through a pastor" shot, the other team had to resort themselves with gallivanting on the pavement of the Ayer Temple Garden because the saving grace had experienced shoes for playing on the grass.

Overall, such activities get the third team's "somersaulting" shot because shots hung and after shot and we didn't go near their pocket or my face photo up.

After all, we did something new and we had a heck doing it. As a bonus, we got a chance to revisit our imaginations as well as our personal favourite, and keep our incredibly preserved memories in time! So, as for an interesting lifestyle, keep these words somewhere in your mind.

Your challenge: A 3 Glass photo scavenger hunt somewhere!

WD
My Passport® Essential™
Ultra-small Portable Hard Drive
500GB 4,490 PHP
1TB 5,090 PHP
USB 3.0 + USB 2.0 Connectivity
SAVE BUY
500GB 3,690 PHP
HOME NETWORK DRIVE
My Book® Live™
1TB 7,290 PHP
2TB 8,750 PHP
EXTERNAL HARD DRIVES
My Book® Essential™
1TB 4,590 PHP
2TB 6,290 PHP
MEDIA PLAYERS
WD TV™ Live
HD Media Player
5,690 PHP
PORTABLE HARD DRIVES
My Passport® Studio™
500GB 5,690 PHP
My Book® Studio™
1TB 8,090 PHP
WD TV™ Live Hub™
Media Center
1TB 8,900 PHP
WD Elements™ Portable
500GB 2,990 PHP
1TB 3,490 PHP
WD Elements™ Desktop
1TB 3,490 PHP
1.5TB 4,290 PHP
2TB 5,690 PHP
WD Elements™ My Book™
1TB 7,990 PHP
FREE
3 Years Warranty (except for WD TV Live HD media player)

Dear mga apo,

Ako na! Ako na ang may alam ng lahat sa internet. 'Di lang 'yan dahil sa layo ng level ko sa Warcraft. Mas astig na rin kasi ang Internet na gamit ko ngayon. Dahil kamo naglabas ang bayanDSL ng maximum speed of 3Mbps, pero P899/month pa rin. Yes, it's true! P899 pa rin. With up to 15GB of data usage allowance. Para sa mga 'di techie, hindi 'yan kinsenas galunggong at bangus. But just like Fish, it's good for you! So kung curious kayo kung ano nga bang magagawa sa 15GB of data, aba'y marami! 'yan ng bawat isa sa example ko.

Para sa mga stalker

Kahit buong gabi n'yo tingnan ang wall ng crush n'yo, o ng mga feeling n'yong naglaka-crush sa inyo, pwede. O maski na wall ko, pwede sa rin! Wala na kayong dahilan not to RT my tweets. Magsawa sa laka-access ng Facebook, Twitter, Multiply at Friendster – na alam n'yo bang social gaming site na ngayon? Hello, nasa news feed ko kaya 'yun.

Para sa mga walang balak maligo

Sit back, relax at bumanjing sa kamanood ng around 18 downloaded movies. Pwedeng ulit-ulitin ang mga paboritong scenes hangga't maukit sa utak ang bawat punch line. Mapa-2 hour hollywood movie, or sandamakmak na pinoy indie films, ikaw bahala. Pero kahit ilang beses n'yo panoorin ang scene na "You're nothing but a second rate, trying hard, copy cat!", hindi pa rin tatangos ang ilong n'yo kagaya ng kay Cherie Gil.

Para sa mga laging OP

Sa awa ng Diyos magging una na kayo sa hottest viral videos and TV shows. Pero just so you know, bago n'yo pa man mapanood yung video na 'yan sa YouTube or teleserye episode sa iWanTV, malamang napanood na ng Lola Techie n'yo 'yan 3 weeks ago. Ganoon talaga, mga apo! Dahil now you can stream videos for around 47 hours. Akalain mo 'yun? Kaya dapat ay magpakalayu-layo kayo sa monitor at baka magdilabo ang mga mata n'yo, ha?

Para sa mahilig mag-Ilaiyon

Pwedeng lagyan ng soundtrack ang buhay n'yo. Kahit nasaan man kayo, sa Luneta o kubeta, pare rin kayong star sa sarili n'yong MTV. Or karaoke video. Get to download around 1,770 songs. Magsawa kayo sa kaka-sentt, kaka-toogi-toogi, kaka-sway-sway at sa kaka-groove to the best of your favorite artists.

Para sa apo kong si Jil

'Wag puro barkada ang i-Skype at i-YM! Spend time with your lola too! Pansinin mo naman emoticons ko. Ano ba naman yung mag-doodle or mag-tic-tac-toe (Mwronment with me? Eh pwede naman gamitin ang instant messengers for around 396 hours. Madaming LOL, ROTFL, and LMHDWSMK yun! Hindi n'yo alam ang LMHDWSMK?! Tsk, talaga naman mas cool pa ako sa inyo.

Salamat sa bayanDSL, buhay na buhay ang internet. Sulit sa buhs. Like ko talaga! Kita-kits sa www.bayandsl.com.ph! XOxoxbye.

Love,
Lola Techie <3

PS. Ang cute ko sa photo, noh? Hehehe. I-add n'yo ko sa Facebook!

Metro Manila (02) 448 (1000, Albay (052) 480 (8888, Butuan (085) 342 (8000, Cavanteros (054) 473 (8000, CDO (088) 309 (8000, Davao (082) 305 (8000, Eastern Visayas (053) 327 (8000, Gensan (083) 301 (8000, Iloilo (033) 301 (8000

super LIFESTYLE

White is Lite

The Healthy Cookware

By Irene Perez

THERE is no introduction, no commune changers, no frou frou—just the band, a mean playlist and a crowd rocking a revived homestead venue. "Wolfgang at The Met" on June 16 is a rock gig done right.

It is the comeback concert of local band Wolfgang composed of Ivan Amado on vocals, Manuel Legarda on guitars, Abet Laygo on bass and Famous Aquino on drums. A three-and-four-legged to the Metropolitan Theater in Manila, even at the onslaught of typhoon "Egay." It was also the rebirth of the Metropolitan Theater as a functional venue, formerly a decrepit and abandoned structure.

Back on tour

Wolfgang opened the show with "Invincible," a track from the album "Aurora." Amado worked up the crowd who sang along, lobbed their hands and enjoyed the music of their—them—youth. The band's popularity peaked during the '90s, and those in attendance are mostly 25 year old and up. The younger fans, Amado said, "are those who think Wolfgang rips off from their brothers, cousins or parents."

The latest was last song at the "Play and Her" gig in Whitespace, Makati, but wait, this time can not to be fully-streamed live on the internet. Amado has been living in the US and a near look in the country touring nationwide with the rest of the "well pack" in the 16-city "Bamboo: First Five"

cover series with bands Chicosci, Rambulan, Imaboh Sol and Brokpa in Baguio.

The songs "Weightless," "Beast," "Left Shore" and "Tribe of the Dove" followed. As one fan on the band's Facebook page said, "The audio series makes because we were standing all along!"

Spectral

"Nakakagat long makinig sa lo. Ang ga-galing eCel." Amado shouted throughout the night.

There was great energy, and the spectral, quite eerie ambiance of The Met complete with that really old mansion smell made the audience more visceral.

The art deco building constructed in 1931 by architect Juan Arellano was known as the "palace dame" of Manila's theaters. It was declared a national cultural treasure in 2010. Wolfgang is the first artiste as it be a big gig.

I was in the theater and thought of what great place," Amado said during an interview backstage. "Hopefully people would find a way to bring it back to its former glory. People didn't really know there was already open."

The semi-glorious theater fate is still history. According to the Internet article "Opening soon: New and improved Metropolitan Theater": "Dating in yesday, the theater could accommodate 3,670 people. ... Badly damaged during World War II, it was rebuilt in 1978 by Imelda Marcos, but its condition deteriorated in the '90s. The Met fell into disuse and [was] finally closed down in 1996 ... Almost P90 million ... has been spent for the [restoration] project." (April 12, 2010)

"It is falling to chambles, but it still has some good bones," he added. A man from Manila

Staff Writer Diego Alden Joshua Cortes

A weekly directory of the country's best entertainments

Where to Stop Where to Go

Hyatt Hotel's Li Li offers a superb Cantonese treat

HYATT HOTEL and Casino Manila's signature restaurant, Li Li, continues to be the preferred choice for authentic Cantonese cuisine in Manila. Since its opening in 2006, Li Li has enamored the taste of epicureans and impressed the palettes of even the most discriminating gourmands – be in dimsum dining experience, sophisticated interiors and attentive guest services.

Li Li has continuously received top reviews from reputable dining guides. This year, Spot.ph, an online one-stop urban lifestyle guide to the best of Manila, crowned Li Li court duck number one – winning over highly acclaimed hotels and stand-alone Chinese restaurants in the metro.

Li Li has clearly established itself as one of the favorite Cantonese restaurants in Manila. Diners from the city, as well as those for overs, visit to experience the finest in Cantonese cuisine. Patrons keep coming back for more of Li Li's signature dishes like Roasted Pumpkin and Seafood Soup; Imperial Peking Duck; Roasted Suckling Pig; Soup-fried Scallops with Shrimp Paste and Crab Roes; Deep-fried Spareribs and Braised Chicken Casserole with Basil Leaves "Taiwan style". Desserts like Chilled Mango Pudding and Chilean on Dumpling Stuffed with White Chocolate Tossed with Pine Nuts, have garnered a huge following.

Li Li is also the preferred choice for business lunches and dinners during the weekdays for its congenial ambiance and all-you-can-eat dim sum offerings on weekends. Family bonding is also popular during the weekends – with the Jumbo Yum Cha being the favourite. Li Li's five private rooms with sophisticated soundproof furnishings cater to small venues to three and more business meetings and lavish family gatherings.

Chef de cuisine Andy Chan ensures that the quality of food at Li Li is always consistent, adding to the memorable dining experience is the gracious service delivered by a team of genuine and dedicated restaurant staff.

For more information about Li Li, call 247-0965 or visit manila.cafe.hyatt.com.

An evening to morning affair at Makati Shangri-La

MAKATI SHANGRI-LA Manila paces the hilarious hour 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. in June. A special menu will be offered together with live entertainment, designed for those who are about to begin their day as evening falls. Guests may enjoy a selection of breakfast cuisine, all-day dining favorites and delicacies as the Executive Chef provides a relaxing venue for night owls to enthusiastic room-sites. The featured entertainment for the month of June is a crooning pianist performance best nights. Satisfy early breakfast cravings with a la carte and a selection of Continental, American, Filipino and morning bakery choices for a hearty set meal. Guests who are looking forward to relaxing from a full night's work may enjoy a basket of free local beers from 12 a.m. to 8 a.m. Rs P350++ available for the whole month of June. For inquiries and reservations, please call 11-3888 local 7826 or 7827.

Berjaya Manila Hotel holds 'Bayanihan'

BERJAYA MANILA HOTEL, one of the newest players in the bustling hotel industry of the country's central business district – Makati City, successfully accented its 'Bayanihan' activity last June 11 with its employees cleaning the hotel premises as well as its surrounding vicinity in the center of Makati Avenue and Ayala Avenue. Bayanihan, the feat of its kind to be hosted by the spa, saw all of the hotel's employees gathering brooms, mops and other cleaning implements for a unique cleaning activity to make sure the hotel is spotless clean for its guests. Sparking interest in others, all of the hotel's employees extended the clean-up activity outside Berjaya Manila Hotel's doors and garnish neat on the adjacent areas of Makati Avenue and Ayala Streets, picked trash and tidied up the vicinity to be efficiently enabled to ensure an appealing attractive and spotless hotel area. Berjaya Manila Hotel's Bayanihan clean-up drive hopes to instill the value of cleanliness, not only in one's personal space, but in the work area as well. Berjaya Manila Hotel is located at the corner of Makati Avenue and Ayala Street in Makati City.

Monsoon Madness at Lancaster Hotel

RAINY DAYS are here again. And everywhere the raindrops keep falling on your head. Don't let it get you down. Be in bed. Keep snug and cozy with a book or a movie and some hot cocoa on the side. Or what about a party with some movie friends, where you can catch up while enjoying rich, warm goodies. Or better yet, get some much needed rest and sleep, deep, sleep with the dancing drops of rain song on your roof lulling you off to Dreamland. The rain-do all that and more at Lancaster Hotel. The hotel's special package called "Monsoon Madness" offers a stay for as low as P5,900 net when you book from July 1 to Sept. 30. Included in this package are buffet breakfast for two, Internet connection in all rooms, complimentary shuttle service to Ortigas shopping malls and Lancaster Cafe's soothing soup for the day to be served via room service. Lancaster Hotel Manila is located at Shaw Blvd. in Mandaluyong City. The opulent hotel offers all-inclusive accommodations with its 122 hotel rooms, as well as the Lancaster Suite and Lancaster Junior suites. Each suite includes ultra-fancy of amenities which include complimentary breakfast for two, cable network television, 42" LCD television, individually controlled air-conditioning, hot and cold water, and broadband Internet access in every guestroom.

BSA Twin Towers offers a hot 'Tw-investment' opportunity

BSA TWIN Towers, located at Francis Square Multi-Settlement EM Magsaysay and The Medicus, packs the perfect one-two punch combo if you want to own a first-rate property and profit in a handsome way.

Come June, St. Francis Square Group of Companies – the BSAIT developer of BSA Twin Towers – proves deserved of a top investment opportunity. Avail of its Condotel advantage, and you are guaranteed a secure superior – and tax-free monthly rental income. BSA Twin Towers' management makes sure of the professional upkeep of the condo units. Visit model units at the 32nd and 38th floor, BSA Twin Towers. For inquiries, please call 632 +29 for 636-2208 or visit www.bsatwintowers.com.ph.

MICROTEL HOTEL TO RISE IN LIBEL, QC

Microtel Inns and Suites (Philippines) Inc. and Rotel Republic Inc. recently signed an agreement for a 104-room hotel in Libis, Quezon City, the 11th Microtel property in the country, located near Eastwood QC. Microtel Libis will offer 72 double rooms and 32 suites with facilities such as meeting rooms and restaurant. Microtel, which is owned and operated by a subsidiary of Wyndham Hotel Group, aims to provide quality yet reasonably priced accommodations. "This is our first venture in the hospitality industry. The rapid commercial and residential developments in Ortigas, Libis and Cubao (X), and easy to Metro Manila took processing. With Microtel Libis, we hope to quick-hotel-hungry guests. Proximity to the Eastwood mixed-use area," said Edwin Lee, president of Rotel Republic Inc. (RI) In addition Inc. the company noted that it expects the Microtel chain in the country's regional cities. "We are excited to expanding the Microtel chain in the country [to] Microtel's Metro Manila and Bonsai Subic City," said Jose Mari del Rosario, president of Microtel Inns and Suites (Philippines) Inc.

Marriott Manila bags Edge Award

ANOTHER IMPRESSIVE achievement has made Marriott truly one of the best companies to work for by workers, as Marriott Manila takes pride in announcing the year's success awards for Excellence in Delivering Guest Experience (Edge) – resident manager Anna Strycula.

An annual Marriott International event, the award aims to recognize the achievements of full service asian operations hoteliers across the globe through the Edge Award. This recognition serves to inspire and recognize excellence in all aspects of delivering the guest experience vision. Moreover, full service properties' leaders nominated remarkable people from their resort's management staffs. Nominees were scored according to leadership performance in achieving measurable improvement in guest experience, outstanding achievement in profit and loss results, setting edge innovations, training and development and personal/national leadership.

A member of Marriott Hotels' executive committee team, Anna is considered as one of the crème of the crops. Her career took off at the Ritz Carlton Pavilion Kuala Lumpur Hotel. Makati where she held several positions from reception manager to director of rooms operations before leaving after 15 years.

"Anna is a great asset to the company who truly lives out the gracious core values of the Marriott brand. She's a woman of infinitive characteristics by her diligence, performance, and dedication", says Marriott Manila general manager Richard Seal. Among the others in recreational contenders, Anna captured the hearts of the judges and is greatly supported by Marriott Manila's general manager, area director of operations, and vice president of CLS and operations, Jose Pardo.

SIZZLING MEXICAN NIGHTS AT THE VUE BAR

Spice up the rainy months of June at The Bellevue Manila with your party with your shawa Mexican style at the Vue Bar, the hotel's hottest lounge and entertainment hotspot. Groove to the beat and feast the night away while sipping the lip-smacking Mexican favorites such as Chicken Fajitas, Beef Tacos and Seafood Ceviche with Cilantro, among others. Come early and take advantage of the happy hour with all food beers and selected cocktails at 50% off from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Minimum consumable of P500 for food and beverage is applicable from 8 p.m. onwards. Here is amazing party like no other with this exciting event available until June 30. For inquiries, call 77-14-00.

BOOK ONLINE AT REGENCY LAGOON RESORT

Getting a room for your next Boracay holiday is just a click away as the luxurious Regency Lagoon Resort now accepts reservations through its enhanced website. Equipped with an online booking application, the resort's home page enables travelers to book rooms from home, the office, or anywhere in real time, anytime, 24/7. The new online service allows users to check the availability of accommodation as preferred dates with automatic confirmation of the complete booking information. Privacy and security for all hotel visitors and other personal information is assured for all personal guests. Besides learning about room rates and receiving special promos, site visitors may also choose to sign up online for the resort's online promos such as email only deal and exclusive on Cebu Pac air e-savings as the well-appointed Kai Regency Spa is located in Station 2 at Boracay Regency Lagoon Resort and Spa. The Regency Lagoon Resort boasts of 120 world-class rooms spread over the buildings, each with a spacious balcony overlooking the resort's majestic 1,200-square meter lagoon-inspired relaxing pool – the biggest in the island. Enjoy affordable luxury during your stay at the paradise island. Book online at www.regencylagoon.com.ph.

Tosca's five 'Fab Deals' at Dusit Thani Manila

DUSIT THANI Manila's Tosca Italian Restaurant gives your usual dining experience a major overhaul with its hot 'Fab Deals' – a new collection of scrumptious 'wine and dine' options.

Feast on perfectly cooked steaks, seafood and surf and turf menus all for the grill. A must-try for all steak and seafood lovers, you'll know this is definitely more than a culinary experience with just a whiff of their rich smokey scents.

For quick, easy and no frills dining, take pleasure in the Fuss-free Lunch. Simply enjoy the assorted buffet, a la carte dishes, Lavazza coffee or tea and dessert. Offered on the 2-course lunch priced at P800++ and the 3-course lunch at P1,000++ from Mondays to Fridays. Rates are inclusive of VAT and local tax, and subject to 10% service charge.

A first-time recipient of the Wine Spectator's Award of Excellence, Tosca holds one of the most outstanding restaurant wine lists in the world. Get a chance to grow your wine portfolio on Wednesdays (from 6 to 9 p.m. with the Wine Stroll Market Series set up for guests to enjoy the P600 (all-in) starting 6 p.m. Wines are priced every hour as prices are increased by P100. Don't miss this truly unique and exciting way of savoring in Tosca's red and white wines.

All wine enthusiasts are invited to unwind and have a great time with Tosca's Weekend Wine Buffet. For only P650 net per person, savor great Italian flavors and indulge in the same impressive selection of wines. Open from Friday to Sunday from 6 to 9 p.m., Tosca's wine buffet is surely add pleasure to your weekends! On the Garbage Stations, come to Tosca for dinner with the family and succeed with your favorite bottle of wine.

Fairways and Bluewater
Fuente Cruz Reunion Tower
Grand Hyatt Manila
Grand Plaza Hotel Davao
Holiday Inn Clark Philippines
Hotel Elizabeth
Hotel Kimberly
Hotel La Corniche Inn
Hotel Veranda
Hotel Victoria
Le Grand Boracay
Le Grand Jardin Resort Hotel Inc.
Le Grand Jardin Resort Hotel Inc.
Le Grand Jardin Resort Hotel Inc.

Bye Hannah, hello Miley

By Ruth L. Montero

MILEY Cyrus killed Hannah Montana.

Figuratively that is. The pixie was lowered last to talk spoken about the hit TV show from Disney days behind her green room between each place. When made her appearance, you'd realize why. She's all grown up and she wants to be recognized as herself without the shadow of the platinum blonde pop princess towering over her.

She expected noisy but cute appraisal as soon as Miley stepped into the stage wearing her pretty and a white jacket singing "Liberty Walk." They grew wilder when she sang "Party in the USA." She suspected everyone when she removed her jacket and revealed a skimpy studded bra underneath.

Her choice of clothes set the tone for the night. That is would be a night where she sings the songs that she likes and perform it the way she wanted it. She was known for some serious hip grinding and gyrating, then so let it! Some of her dance moves seem to shock some of her younger fans.

"Is that Miley?," asked the little girl behind me. She couldn't be more than eight years old.

When she performed Jessie J's "Cheeky Bomb," her hands traveled close to her crotch. When the young girl in front of me saw this, she lowered her head in embarrassment.

The crowd around me calmed down when she sang the cover of "Every Rose has its Thorn." Most of them are melancholies with the song. But the choir showed everyone what her long, curly hair was capable of when she bumped her head around for Nirvana's "Smells Like a Teen Spirit."

I was jumping up and down with her at this point when I noticed that the children around me were too quiet. Some of them stared at Miley's image on the screen with only the slightest of interest. The girl who allowed me what the show started had retreated at the back. They looked suspiciously bored. They only came alive when she sang her hits like "7 Things" and "Can't Be Tamed."

I thought it was ironic how I was not in this list. I was enjoying the concert more. She completely won me over when she sang "Landslide" by Fleetwood Mac. The words "But time makes you bolder/Children get older/I'm getting older, too" rose in breathless. It was as if she was offering an explanation to her younger fans and their mums that she's no longer the 12-year old child leaving the "best of both worlds."

The only song she performed from the soundtrack of "Hannah Montana" were hits "The Climb." The backdrop brought so much joy to the crowd that everyone started to sing along. She ended the night with "Who Owns my Heart."

On our way home, my cousin kept on wishing that Miley should have sung more "Hannah" songs. While I kept on gushing how good she was and how she would be a knockout in the years to come. I thought we complained the loss of the clever types of fans that night.

Maybe it was fans of "Hannah Montana," like my cousin, who came home disappointed because they found out that they will only see her on reruns and DVDs. There were the loyal fans who stuck with her and did learn her new songs by heart.

Then there was me, a convert who gained forever appreciation for the artist Miley wanted to be.

Manila sends Miley love

By Eishan Isidro
Student contributor
De La Salle University, Manila

BARELY a few weeks after Canadian superstar Justin Bieber left our shores, another great singer performed to our country: Miley Cyrus! Let's see what the "Milabration" had to say about her concert at the Mall of Asia Concert grounds over the weekend.

"It's the best concert ever! Super worth it. I'll buy VIP tickets next time," said Stephanie Nicole Go in a post on the Manila Concert Scene (MCS) Facebook fan page. Megan Maxine Fernandez found the concert to be "the best since Adam Lambert."

Even though Mich Papa and her group were seated in the lowest section, she said, "It was worth watching."

Despite only seeing Cyrus on screen, 14-year-old Saint Nicholas High School junior Katrina Sargsa shared that it was an amazing concert, while 17-year-old Jaya Quiroz, an HR Communications major from Lyceum Manila, agreed with Bicgan.

Most concert fans couldn't help but notice Miley Cyrus' bouncy. "She was really amazing, hot, gorgeous ... Definitely awesome. I was screaming 'Miley, Miley, Miley!'," added Bargas.

Mandaluyong, Makati, a PR and events specialist who attended the concert with her daughter Imeshe, described Miley Cyrus as "exceptionally awesome, a total bomb, down-to-earth, beautiful and a super amazing artist."

Better than Bieber!

Cyrus seemed to have won the match for a better concert here in the Philippines. She was in her best condition during the performance, and she has had more years in show business, compared to Justin Bieber.

"Miley seems to be a more seasoned artist compared to Bieber. She had full control of her show," remarked gallery owner Enrico Madagna.

Eighteen-year old Jeannielle Sierra Ilustrisimo, who recently graduated with a BS Nursing degree from San Sebastian Colege-Recoletos de Cavite, ran down his concert experience with Cyrus:

"I was one of the organizers of both grand fans' day parties. I was in the second. I took home a life-sized Miley standee. I milked, attended the press conference, and wanted her up close. I saw my face thrice on TV. I was in the VIP section of the concert. In the meet-and-greet I told Miley, 'I heart you so much, Miley,' she replied, 'Love you, too.' I was able to put my arm around Miley's shoulder. I got a warm hug from her and I was able to smell her. God, what a scent! I enjoyed the concert so much and just realized now."

"Miley is almost perfect... if not perfect!" exclaimed Miriam College high school junior Imeshe.

Villanueva, 16, who didn't regret being a fan. "Miley has this sincerity in her 'big heart,'" she said.

Ateneo Executive Pig, 19, BS Management senior at Ateneo de Manila University, enjoyed the concert, "Miley was GINAE," he said. For Gardenia Lungsiata, 17, BS International Travel & Tourism Management sophomore from Lyceum of the Philippines University-Batangas, he agreed that the concert and Miley "was just all perfect."

"It's the best concert ever," gushed Krystel Gayle Spanoto, 15, a BS Accountancy freshman of Lyceum of the Philippines University-Batangas neighborhood. She justified the concert was and how beautiful Miley is.

Daniel Lantin Cabrera, personal manager of Cyrus's photographer, watched the concert with daughter Sophia Cassandra Cabrera, a grade 1 student, who is an avid fan of Cyrus.

Sophia was into Hannah Montana, so much I have had no choice but to watch the entire season. "I miss Miley actually because I was watching Hannah Montana to sing the 'rock star' that she is now," Lantin-Cabrera says.

"It was the first time my daughter and I saw her in person that night. I must say he a more like me, I was amazed not just at how beautiful Miley is, but how she is extremely at a perfect age from singing, pop songs to now hosting her perfects. She was such an excellent performer, with a very great voice, probably not what my daughter or other kids who attended the concert expected," added Lantin-Cabrera.

"I was amazed at how she can still and knocked me was, but by how you could see the passion in her eyes, and the way she performed on stage."

What to watch online this weekend

Forget the movies or TV; the fun stuff is on the Net

By Mike Mark M. Salstan

THESE days, searching stuff online is as normal as checking out an action flick in the movie house or watching your favorite sitcom on TV.

It's even fun now, if you come to think of it. Set aside can you have unlimited popcorn (or chips, chocolate cookies, or whatever...watch online!), you can also rewind, fast forward, pause, or skip to the next scene.

If nothing on cable interests you, or if you don't feel like watching "Green Lantern" today, then turn your laptop on, go online, and search these clips.

Robert Jeffrey's tribute to Madonna

If you have a thing for talented, all-boy guys, then you must search 20-year-old entertainer Robert Jeffrey's video of his 9-year-old self paying tribute to Madonna. It was taken during the summer of 1993, on a beach at the Hampton Beach Casino, which allowed tourists to lip-synch to a song in front of a blue screen background.

The result? A little over-four minutes of pure entertainment, where Robert lip-synchs and dances to the Material Girl's hit "Vogue"—complete with the popular finger gestures, included! Type in vimeo.com/2470008 and press enter.

Katy Perry's music video for 'Last Friday Night'

The singer proves that she's a pop star to mess with the video for "Last Friday Night (TGIF)," how bores sanity aside. With a "Wy theme (check out the abundance of denim and neon), the video is a mini-movie about Kathy Beth Terry, whose house becomes the venue for a party organized by Rebecca Black (of "Friday" fame).

Kathy Beth is a geek—complete with nerdy glasses and braces—but Rebecca transforms her into a cool girl for the party after some waxing and a wardrobe overhaul.

As with any party, there's a bunch of crazy incidents, such as a dance showdown, a fist fight, and some throwing up. What makes the music video truly iconic is the list of stars doing cameos: The boys of Hanson, Kevin McHale, and Darren Criss of "Glee," Corey Feldman and Debbie Gibson as Kathy Beth's parents, and saxophonist Jimmy G. and his nerdy looks.

Put best thing about it? Katy Perry walks as a geek!

Philippine Misters' winning performance

The day before the Philippine Independence Day, the Philippine Misters showed off their skills at the yearly Dance2. Dance. The World Entertainer Showcase Competition held in Zurich, Switzerland, beating out nine other groups, and bringing home a cash prize of around P928,000.

Full of their signature robot moves and tumblings, the member also had some Filipino flavor in the form of rattan sticks and what seemed like Grave Stone-dancing for the finale.

To watch their performance (around five minutes long), type and search on YouTube: Philippine Misters at dance2dance 2011 theater 1) Zurich, Switzerland. You can also watch the performance of the group Most Wanted Crew, the group that won second place. Unbelievably the group has a member named Brian Pingon.

Nicola Roberts' 'Beat of My Dreams'

Nicola, the redhead of the girl band Girls Aloud, has finally decided to pursue a solo singing career, after two of her bandmates did. Her first single is "Beat of My Dreams," the Diplo-produced tune that will remind you of songs by Shakira and M.I.A.

In the music video for the song, Nicola—dressed up to vibrant outfits—put songs and dances at the school auditorium together with break-dancers and some cheerleaders. It's quite plot-less, just like most music videos, but it works; it has dance routines, a lot of extras, and colorful clothes. Nothing like showing how just pure eye-candy.

Lady Gaga's video for 'Edge of Glory'

Lady Gaga sure knows how to shock. After gained music videos for "Bom This Way" and "Judas," she releases a pretty simple and low-concept video for "The Edge of Glory" (which sounds a lot like Bob) Clash's "My Life Would Suck Without You"). Clad in a studded leather jacket a silk shirt in some several, Lady Gaga begs out of an apartment window walls and prances around a sidewalk, and then goes back to her apartment—through the window, of course.

A lot of fans have expressed their disappointment with the video, saying that it's boring and too simple, while there are also critics who have lauded it for its references to Jim Jones' book "The Monster Principle" video, for example), simplicity, and shock factor. We're all used to gratuitous, over-the-top productions from Gaga, after all, and this video surely isn't one of them.

Wolfgang rocks The Met

From page E1

city Hall dipped off the area and made sure the restrooms were working well. Dennis Lachenico did the stage backdrop and flubs, by Mila Santos took care of the lighting. An astonishing 30 community events were honored. We can't help noticing, though, the massive pruning on the ceiling, and the aged walls. Wolfgang, literally, could have brought the house down.

But that didn't stop the fans from going allies. The band, for the first time, played a succession of hugely songs from the album "Never in Silence": "Hikaya," "Sirens," "Silence" and "Sing Along Song Daily" to invoke Legarda's attention the lyrics.

"The songs are about a guy who ended up dying, because 'Mon is such a positive guy" Arnadi joked. "But the audience sang along 'No Fakes'—a cut off the "Final Journey" animation soundtrack.

'Sanchita'

Wolfgang played "Sanchita," a new song for the coming album. On when it would be out, Arnadi just gave a shrug. "Intending long strands" was penned next, one of the bands cult hits. The crowd knew the lyrics by heart.

Following a flute concert break, the band played "Point of Arms," "Man On," "Bring Down the Goal, Israel," "24," "Blue 11," "Promises," "Mans up Depot" and "What Comes in your Combat."

There are also surprise encores—"High Speed Jive" by Megadeth and "2 Minutes to Midnight" by Iron Maiden.

Last songs were "Habla ni Ha-Ha" and "Serenades," and "Intro" for the encore.

After the No-Iron encore diary were sold out, the last of the singles and posters in the portable streamers and the band's name and send me in the order were bought shortly after were no band were, just a makeshift table for snacks), happy fans walked out of the venue.

In the backstage, hard-pounding drummer Aquino said he can hardly fit his arms (he breaks sticks quickly). Arnadi did a Q&A, and while answering my question, he stopped to call someone, making someone was putting off a cigarette on the floor.

He joked that cigarettes hurt and scolded "Stop that, you're defeating the purpose of why we're doing this whole thing." Then he threw it to me.

We may be the listeners to drop us and just go for someone else. Then, repeat. We appreciate that, and for posts on facebook. I reply when I can."

A few minutes after the gig, the "Wolfgang: Philippines" page was filled with love. Photos, clips, thank yous from members who shared over two hours of hard-core bang-work.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Mikee boasts new kiddie tilt /F3

Editor Nonoy U. Tiero • Assistant Editor Rica P. Aviles

SATURDAY Special

Tom Hanks enjoys new role: Grandpa

LOS ANGELES—"It's better than television," Tom Hanks joked about his new role: Grandpa to Chloe Jane Hanks, who was born last February. "It's unbelievable!"

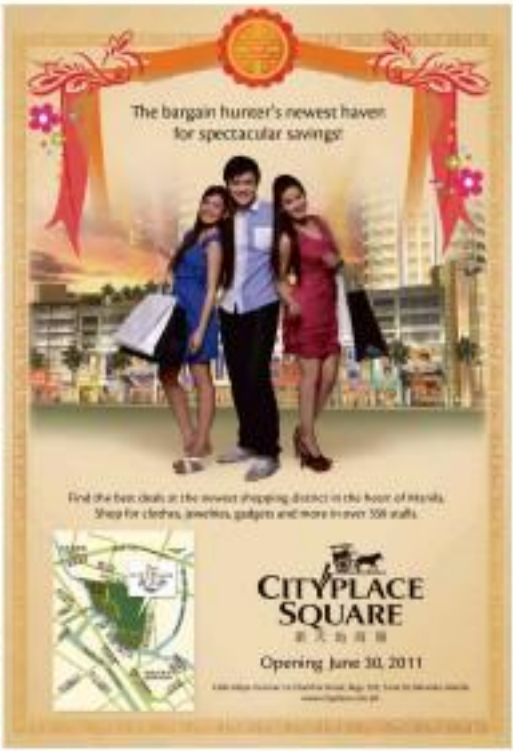
The actor, clearly enjoying his first grandchild, cracked, "There's nothing I'd rather be doing than having that little kid on my knee or in my arms, and I'm saying things like I'm so exaggerated, play-ful voice. 'Who's that little girl?' or 'Such a big town for such a little girl!'"

Chloe Jane is the daughter of Colin Hanks (Tom's actor son with first wife Vanessa Bell Calloway) and his wife Isabella Cramp, who married in 2009.

Tom Hanks is also the father of Elizabeth Ann Hanks, 24, and Truman Theodore Hanks, 21, with Calloway, and Samantha Lewes, 19, with his second wife, Rita Wilson.

Tom Hanks is also the father of Elizabeth Ann Hanks, 24, and Truman Theodore Hanks, 21, with Calloway, and Samantha Lewes, 19, with his second wife, Rita Wilson.

Rishon U. Sepulveda



Style Breaker Laureen Uy discovers a whole new CRUNCH

It might be the glimmer of the spotlight that's lured many to be part of the high-stakes fashion world, but for young fashion maven Laureen Uy, it has always been her love for style, and her flair for breaking current trends and coming up with new innovations. Owner of the popular blog Break my Style and booming fashion line BreakBreak, Laureen shows how a fiery passion for fashion can move mass into style and promising ventures.

A family affair

Laureen's love for fashion started when she was little, inspired by her two older siblings – fashion mavens Jamela Uy (Ly) and Vince Uy.

"I grew up loving fashion. I've always admired the work of my siblings, and in a way they inspired me to be who I am right now," she shares.

Today, she continues to make her own mark in the industry as her solo line StyleBreak has evolved from being an online shopper's haven to a regular presence in many fashion bloggers' closets. Her blog Break My Style also has a growing following, as constantly intrigued by her daily fashion experiments. Her passion for style has also taken her to new fields, including a role in a local telenovela.

Fearless with a blog

As a dedicated designer and blogger, Laureen never fails to add an out-of-the-box and exceptional to her everyday style.

"Right now I'm leaning towards being a little edgy, and I usually go for blacks, whites and neons. To add a little bit of couture, I adorn myself with lots of accessories," she says.

For the ultimate reward, she turns to the new Jollibee Crunchy Chicken Burger that always means her taste-buds is a delicious crunchy adventure, whether during shoots or while blogging at home.

"My favorite food has always been chicken and I used to enjoy all kinds of chicken burger meals available. But when I first took a bite of the Jollibee Crunchy Chicken Burger, I was surprised because it was very crunchy but juicy inside. And I was pleasantly surprised that it was only P59," she enthused. "It's now my favorite chicken burger fast meal, and I already can't imagine myself enjoying any other chicken burger," adds Laureen.

Today, Laureen continues to enrich the list of adventure and savor the things that she can call extraordinary – fashion, career, and her new favorite, Jollibee Crunchy Chicken Burger.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

For ticket reservations and screening schedules pls. visit: www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

Like us on facebook

Follow us on

GALLERIA

MANILA

METRO EAST

NOVALICHES

FORUM ROBINSONS

STA. ROSA

LIPA

DASMARIÑAS

STARMILLS

IMUS

ANGELES

TACLOBAN

DUMAGUETE

BACOLOD

ILOILO

GENSAN

ILOCOS NORTE

WALL SHOW

KYLA
June 26, 5pm
Robinsons Angeles

ALBUM TOUR

Bugoy Drilon
June 25, 8pm
Robinsons Sta. Rosa Market

SM CINEMA

visit: www.smcinema.com

like us on facebook

PROMO!

Disney's
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
ON STRANGER TIDES
Ticket at SM Mall of Asia and get to pick a prize.
Exciting prizes at stake!

PROMO

Tell Kiddo using your SMART Buddy, SMART Gold and SMART Bro to get free drinks, popcorn and movie ticketsfor more fun at the movies!

Redeem your Smart Rewards Points for Bro Blade terminals available in all SM Cinema Bro Act ambassadors.

GET ALL THESE FOR FREE

Beverages	1 pc	12 oz
Popcorn	1 pc	1 pc
Fries	1 pc	1 pc
Chocolate	1 pc	1 pc
Meal	1 pc	1 pc

IMAX THEATRE

GREEN LANTERN

metro manila

luzon

visayas • mindanao

HOTLINE: 470.22.22 / WEBSITE: www.smcinema.com
Get them at any SM Tickets Nationwide outlets!

VISIT WWW.SMCINEMA.COM AND PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS ONLINE.
PAYMENT VIA CLARK DEBIT AND ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED.

OFFERS A WIDE VARIETY OF FOOD AND DRINKS AT ALL SM CINEMA LOBBIES

FANS' DAY

Deserving winners in OPM singing tilt

By Andy Bais

"MICEL AQUINO and Sharon Brown never cease to amaze me with their acting ability and screen presence," says Abby Sotto, Immortals. "They have become veteran staples of hers, but their presence is always welcome. They're never boring to watch...attacking their roles with great sensitivity and restraint, which are seldom seen in teleseryes, where over-the-top performances are the norm.

"Sharon is even more impressive, because she's relatively new but can hold her own alongside acting veterans, like her performance last week on Maalala Mo Kaya, 'with Pedro Penduko and the Bitoks.'"

Other stars:

Roger Salonga, hunk singer-player: "Watching Organizing on my stage. Offsetting Manpanil 20/20 and Pagsa's delayed release of the grand finale of the nationwide search for the Total OPM Performer on HBO-4 brought me back to the time when singing idol winners were determined by a well-chosen board of judges who really knew how to choose the best singers. Were bad enough of time were determined winners whose careers have gone nowhere.

REYES AND AQUINO. Sensitivity and restraint

Nicole Mercado hasn't fared well in affairs of the heart, nor with her relationship with her parents—how badness can you get? But, I like her. She's strong and tough and doesn't break down and cry easily. I wish she didn't talk so much about her breakup with Dennis Trillo, though. As the saying goes, 'Some things are better left unsaid.'"

E-mail: baisandy@yahoo.com

Alvin was a big surprise to me. Among the guys, I like Rom Rueben Bolivar, who ended up in third place. He could be a trailblazer in the mold of Martin Nievera or Ogie Alcasid.

Untapped singers

"Speaking of Ogie, I admire him for OPM band and Ogie for spearheading the nationwide search. I hope it becomes an annual event."

Pinay Ate Maria, student: "Jennylyn Mercado hasn't fared well in affairs of the heart, nor with her relationship with her parents—how badness can you get? But, I like her. She's strong and tough and doesn't break down and cry easily. I wish she didn't talk so much about her breakup with Dennis Trillo, though. As the saying goes, 'Some things are better left unsaid.'"

E-mail: baisandy@yahoo.com

Mikee boosts new kiddie tilt

By Nestor U. Torre

THE SON inside Mr. "Chito Tabeo Camp," has come across it in the host. Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, as a chooks be congratulated for having gotten her to appear in a pair of its production team.

Mikee isn't seen on TV as often as she should be, but she more than makes up for it by looking her zero progress

MIKEE F1

JAWORSKI makes progress wildflow among "Lenderella" as schoolgirl and opposite of juvenile fabric.

Tom Hanks enjoys new role: Grandpa

From page F1

Samantha Lowrey and Samantha Bryant. "I had no voice in the discussion," Tom Hanks chose his son and daughter-in-law. "They didn't ask me. They just did the deed, and out popped my granddaughter."

The talk about Tom's granddaughter led to updates about his children, Colin and Elizabeth. "Colin is appearing in the most unusual of Dante," which is a great show," he said. "He has a great gig, and he's a great actor. My daughter, Elizabeth, is going to be delivering a book manuscript to Random House. She's been working on it since the get-out-of-Samoa."

He politely declined to chit about Chrissie and Tiramisu, his offspring with wife, actress Rita Wilson, because they are too young to be "dragged into the public eye."

College professor

Tom Hanks is back on the director's chair with "Larry Crowne," a comedy-drama about a middle-aged guy who reinvents himself by going back to college after he was laid off from work. It's only his second directorial work after "That Thing You Do!" That also stars with Julia Roberts (who plays a college professor who takes a liking to Larry with "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" actress Rita Wardalos.

"Does Larry Crowne have anything in common with me other than the hair and the big ears?" Tom asked aloud. "Did I cry big ears? What I can say, going for was a guy who has a wonderful thing to him. I found myself by my choices, and by the work that I've done," he said behind, he has to completely reinvented himself not because of some midlife crisis, but more of a midlife disaster."

Asked if he has experienced in real life a time when Larry is driving home, and about losing his job, Tom answered, "I've had plenty of drives where I wondered, What the hell is going to happen now?' There was one period in Los Angeles when I wondered if I was going to lose everything. My TV show had been canceled, people told me I had made pictures no one was looking at a long time ahead of me, in which there was no work on the horizon. The phone wasn't ringing. I had two kids, and one was brand new. I didn't know if I would be able to keep my house in Malibu [Cry]."

While Tom insists story is set in contemporary times, it was inspired by Tom's experience in education in the '70s. "I went to junior college in Hayward, California, because I had nothing else to do," he recalled. "I didn't have the grades to get into a university, and I didn't have any skills to enter the workplace.

Big community

"Junior college was enormously cheap community and a community school," he explained. "People from all over would come in. There were ex-doctors and lawyers; just people who were in school. I went with a lot of people who were my age, just out of high school. But, there were also people who were twice my age. There were mothers whose children had gotten up, moved out of the house, and were going back to school. There were guys who were discovered, and a lot of servicemen who were back from Vietnam.

"They were starting all over again, so it was common to walk into a class and be in the same exact track or place in the education, subject as people who were 30, 40, even 50 years older than me," he added. "That atmosphere also crept into the early days I had with Rita."

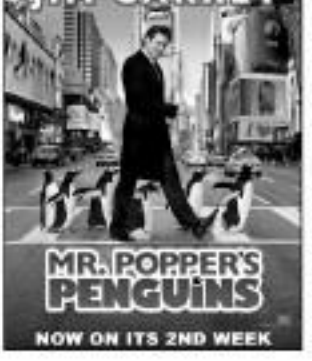
When one of the most desired guys in Hollywood was asked what his flaws were, Tom said, "I do not listen to myself." Then, he reversed in humor: "I try not to look in the mirror any longer. One is one the top eighth, shoulder, and then run away." Pointing at various parts of his face, Tom cracked, "Get one blemish right here, and I get another one here. My nose is kind of bulbous on this side of my face."

Often described as the funny forward his generation, Tom was prodded to talk about when he dislikes in people. He replied, "I like the hell to the way you govern yourself, and what you smell in dinner you make offensive with, there's no substitution for absolute honesty. There are people who lie very easily. They don't think about it and say, 'Well, this is all part of living. You've got to accept the lie.' I refuse to accept that. If you lie to me, you're in big trouble! By and large, I'm a good-natured man. I give everybody a fair shake, but if someone takes advantage of that good nature, then you're going to suffer the wrath of a born steward.

"I'm not a lightweight," he emphasized. "I'm not a sucker. Hey I'm not a pussy. I'll tell you right there. And, I don't mean that in a mean sense.

"That might be one of the reasons why we've still got my good after 20 years," he said of being an evolving artist. The actor was just appointed editor-in-chief of a new site, Hub Pages.

TOM F1



CARREY: Received unexpected "shoutout" in "Mr. Popper's Penguins."

Adroit mix of live action and animation

By Noreen U. Torre

JIM CARREY has been having a hard time of late snatching his next hit movies—but, he can breathe a bit easier now because it looks like he's come up with a winner in his new film, "Mr. Popper's Penguins."

The new comedy, an adroit mix of live action (for its human cast) and digital animation (for those cute and cantankerous penguins), tells an improbable story all about an old-school dreamer and what she misses completely gifts her son (Carrey) with in "inheritance" of—six penguins!

His reason for doing so is difficult to figure out—until the movie screamers slowly but surely warm up Carrey's cold, cold heart and middle him to finally settle to his estranged wife and children.

Loony dad

Carrey has become a loony dad because his own father was literally everywhere (when solo mode) for him. He's become a wildly successful comic, but his personal life is a veritable share and shower per of unsolicited contradictions.

But, enjoy this little penguin-in-disconfusion stuff the producers of the "Fockers" mockey family and created three of long-necked visitors and others, including love and loyalty.

After they learn all these lessons, they become a cohesive force of nature as they succeed in doing the impossible—save the winged or finned creatures from the human and natural problems who want to do them in.

Truth to tell, not everything about this production is so yum, yay as fluffed, kinder, but its fun combination of Carrey and all those lovable digitized penguins is a cute-test attention, grabber and winner. Yes, the movie's plot pursuit is hugely improbable, but it "works."

The fun debit side, the film's complications and subplotting are rather weak and unnatural. For instance, there's this whole section that requires Carrey to convince a wealthy matriarch played by Angela Lansbury to sell Central Park's iconic Tavern on the Green restaurant to his bosses.

Unfortunately, Lansbury's performance isn't as crisp and creamy as it's obviously meant to be, and nothing really comes out of Carrey's energetic efforts to seduce or browbeat her into oddball equitousness—so, that's one element that goes absolutely nowhere.

Major problem

The film's choice of "villain" to manifest major problems. He turns out to be a tax official and "penguin expert" who pretends to be on the cute-even-more side, but in fact seeks to sell our home them to zoological for furry and more expensive animals. ...Where's the real drama and conflict in this?

Carrey's love life is yet another plot component that goes nowhere fast. His estranged wife appears to be only too happy to forgive him, and she's given a new photogenic and caring mature boyfriend (who's only too willing to exit whenever Carrey needs to reunite his ex-wife's heart and his). —Again, here unconfirmed and unopportune encounter!

But, in the midst of wonders, the movie "magically" survives all of these lost and considerably unproductive moments, so we left the theater still with a silly, satisfied smile plastered on our face.

Moral of the story: Be careful who you make Please, don't even think of coming up with a sequel to this funny but exceedingly thin tale. That we won't be able to take!

Tom Hanks . . .

From page F3

46, by the AOL Huffington Post Media Group.

"We are artists in different ways," Tom said. "We're always busy. We met while making a film, so we know that it is not a living but a life that we have, because there are all these other intangibles that go with it.

"Look, I'm not stupid. I'm not going to walk away from somebody as great as my wife. We've never had big problems about that. We give each other support for whatever the other wants to pursue."

He downplayed all the media about his enthusing marriage, saying, "But, many of our friends have been married for a long time, too. It's absolutely hard to stay married anywhere—but, your of it is, marry the right person and it might work out!"

E-mail: wenguio_1508@yahoo.com

Mikee boosts . . .

From page F3

with her closing "workaholic" as role-swipes and "aspirants of juvenile talents who know how they should be most equitable and effectively handled.

That's because, aside from being a caring and loving mother, Mikee is also the spokesperson of the AnakTV Foundation, which is doing the key job of promoting media child-friendly television, not just in the Philippines but throughout Southeast Asia.

Training

In the major capacity Mikee understands both as host and celebrities how important it is to give children the enlightened tall-see than exploitative training they need to become good, creative and responsible performers.

Mikee's key advantage is clear in the simple yet focused way that she interacts with the child talents (and parents) on the show. We trust that, following her enlightened lead, other members of the entertainment will do work that is similarly consistent and informed.

We say "will," because that isn't the case...yet. For instance, last Sunday, the show's mentors taught their little wards how to dance simply by going the standard "mentor-mode" route. As a result, when the kids were made to do their solo dance turns, they did poorly.

Teaching kids how to become truly outstanding performers is much more challenging than resorting to the facile, "gwa gawa" technique, beyond just teaching them specific steps and moves, the adult mentors have to be encouraged to understand why they're performing in the first place, the effect that their performances might in turn on viewers, and what of themselves they can summon in the performance to make it truly uniquely their own.

Choice

Clearly, a lot of work needs to be done in this regard, as the choice of oral mentors, rather than "celebrities," is of the greatest importance. The mentors have to understand the entire process—and realize it is undeniable to their young wards—and that's a real trivial order.

As the end of last week's show, we were informed that the next mentorship would be on "program learning"—and we got even more worried. How will the kids be trained to become good TV hosts in only one session? Will they be taught to sincerely read their spiels in a "lively," "sexy" manner, as most pin-naked TV talents do these days?

If so, they will be missing the point in a big way, and the show will be producing not outstanding little hosts, but more of the less-hard-and-fast-yak-yaks.

Mikee must realize she will do what she can to help her colleagues see the light in this regard, so that "I Share Talent Camp" can emerge as a genuine training ground for new child stars.

It would also be really great if the show could stop focusing on the young talents' parents, because their aren't what the show should be about!

Per ETI-NCR Permit No. 4067 Series of 2011

SATURDAY Special

Quit!

June is "No Smoking" month in the Philippines. If you're still smoking, this may be the right time to finally stop. Findings in a recent medical study show that smoking persists as a major risk factor for heart disease, especially for current smokers.

Quit now and take Centrum Silver. The only multivitamin-mineral formula Complete from A to Zinc specifically formulated for adults 50 and up. Centrum Silver contains age-essential nutrients like Vitamins B6, B12, C, E and Folic Acid for a healthy heart. So instead of lighting another cigarette, light up the fire inside you with an active lifestyle. Be proper diet and Centrum Silver.

MULTIVITAMINS+MINERALS
Centrum
Silver
Live Complete.

Diversity inspires Beyoncé's artistry in intimate album

By Rito F Asis

BEYONCE Tony star of silver gown and whipping whoopee-cut bobcuts

WAS BEYONCE gone soft? In her latest album, "4," the 29-year-old R&B superstar takes a welcome breather from the dance-floor dumbers that have made her a star, and delivers a tasty mix of slow jams and snappy old-to-romantic ballads.

The lovely singer-actress is not exiled but humanized in the 10 tracks in her iconic album. Instead of the diva-esque anthems that have become her stock in trade, she's content to let her assets do the talking. "Love on Top," for instance, the album's first single, is a sweet, sexy serenade that celebrates a woman's love-light, conscious and demand for respect.

For instance, "Best Thing I Never Had" is about a luckless guy who she says doesn't deserve her love and loyalty.

This time, Beyoncé's hormone-driven lovers don't follow predictable melodic patterns (the exquisite "Rather Die Young" and the jazzy "Party"). They grow on you upon repeated spins.

The groove-tastic "I Care" cleverly fuses the moody ballads of Phil Collins and the ballads of Adele, while "I Miss You" is a deliberate throwback that strikes listeners like a gentle caress. Indeed, a slower groove doesn't necessarily result in a duller sound.

Beyoncé further enlivens the grooves—and charms—in the exhilarating "Love On Top," by juxtaposing the key of its final section several times up to vigorously showcase the singer's multiple registers.

Its lovely "hopeless years" grind should make you up and linger in your mind the rough the cold nights of the rainy season.

Vulnerability

However, there's strength in the lovely singer's display of vulnerability—and restraint in acknowledging it. Our minute, she sings about longing, heartbreak and lost love, and moments, she celebrates a woman's hard-won, conscious and demand for respect.

For instance, "Best Thing I Never Had" is about a luckless guy who she says doesn't deserve her love and loyalty.

This time, Beyoncé's hormone-driven lovers don't follow predictable melodic patterns (the exquisite "Rather Die Young" and the jazzy "Party"). They grow on you upon repeated spins.

The groove-tastic "I Care" cleverly fuses the moody ballads of Phil Collins and the ballads of Adele, while "I Miss You" is a deliberate throwback that strikes listeners like a gentle caress. Indeed, a slower groove doesn't necessarily result in a duller sound.

Beyoncé further enlivens the grooves—and charms—in the exhilarating "Love On Top," by juxtaposing the key of its final section several times up to vigorously showcase the singer's multiple registers.

Its lovely "hopeless years" grind should make you up and linger in your mind the rough the cold nights of the rainy season.

Predictability hobbles 'Amaya'

By Honor G. Torre

MAYA Pinay princess to slave—to warrior

IT'S BEEN weeks since we jotted down our first impressions of the new GMA 7 telefantasy, "Amaya"—and, unfortunately, little has changed. We wanted to give the show enough time to iron out its kinks, and its team to get their acts together—but have they?

After you get over the character and completely comic book and feel of "Amaya" and concentrate on its unfolding storyline, you can't shake off the impression that its executive producers is making a rather predictable story.

This enough, after nine weeks to date, the series' plot line is turning out to be a mere rendition on *Alyas Pogi*: peasant-to-love, perceived betrayal, revenge, and all sorts of with-and-convoluted conflicts.

The bad characters of Amaya (Helena Rivera) is hated by the Datu's wife (Gina Alajar) because she's the daughter of the sorceress (Lani Mercado). So, she spares heaven and earth to make life a living hell for her cousin-in-law (whom she considers) and her love child (whom she hates as a slave after her father's death—as a result of the spurned queen's false testimony).

PERSIAN CARPET 124

POWER PLANT
CINEMAS

FOREVER AND A DAY - DP 12:45, 3:05, 5:30, 7:55, 10:20	GREEN LANTERN - DP 10:15, 2:45, 7:40, 10:15	THE TREE OF LIFE - RSD 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40
SUPER 8 / SUPER 8 (in 3D) - DP 1:10, 3:30, 10:15, 10:30	MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS - DP 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15	GREEN LANTERN (in 3D) - DP 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40

SM CINEMA
SM LUCIA
3D SILVER SCREEN
THE SMURFS
GREEN LANTERN in 3D

SHANG CINEPLEX
GREEN LANTERN (3D)
GREEN LANTERN
MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS
THE TREE OF LIFE
SUPER 8
FOREVER AND A DAY

NEWPORT CINEMAS
THE TREE OF LIFE
GREEN LANTERN in 3D
MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS
GREEN LANTERN

get hired www.jobmarketonline.com

Ayala Malls Cinemas

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4
1: GREEN LANTERN (3D)
2: FOREVER AND A DAY
3: GREEN LANTERN (2D)
4: X-MEN: FIRST CLASS / HANGOVER 2
5: MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS
6: GREEN LANTERN
7: THE TREE OF LIFE

GREENBELT 1
1: X-MEN: FIRST CLASS / HANGOVER 2
2: GREEN LANTERN

GREENBELT 3
1: GREEN LANTERN
2: GREEN LANTERN (3D)
3: MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS
4: GREEN LANTERN
5: GREEN LANTERN

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: GREEN LANTERN
2: GREEN LANTERN (3D)
3: MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS
4: FOREVER AND A DAY
5: HANGOVER 2

AYALA CENTER CEBU
1: MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS / GREEN LANTERN
2: FOREVER AND A DAY / HANGOVER 2
3: GREEN LANTERN
4: RESERVED

MARQUEE
1: MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS
2: GREEN LANTERN (3D)
3: GREEN LANTERN
4: FOREVER AND A DAY / HANGOVER 2

MARKET! MARKET!
1: GREEN LANTERN (3D)
2: X-MEN: FIRST CLASS / HANGOVER 2
3: THE TREE OF LIFE
4: MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS
5: GREEN LANTERN
6: FOREVER AND A DAY
7: RESERVED

TRINOMA
1: MR. POPPER'S PENGUIN
2: FOREVER AND A DAY
3: GREEN LANTERN (3D)
4: GREEN LANTERN (2D)
5: THE TREE OF LIFE
6: X-MEN: FIRST CLASS / HANGOVER 2
7: GREEN LANTERN

ABREEZA
1: GREEN LANTERN
2: GREEN LANTERN
3: MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS
4: FOREVER AND A DAY / HANGOVER 2

For ticket reservations or purchases,* text SureSeats to 2910 (for Globe and Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com
Movie schedules may change without prior notice.
For verification, please call 729-7777.
*Reservations open to all Globe/Isla users. Purchases open for all these cardholders only.

MOVIE SPECIAL

MALL EVENTS

GLORIETTA
The Exclusives

GREENBELT
Filipino Heritage Festival (Discovery Tuition)
June 22-26, Terrace Area & Activity Center

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Kids Learn at Alabang Town Center
June 20, Activity Center

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Father's Day Exhibit: Toys for the Big Boys
June 15-20, Home Area

MARKET! MARKET!
Mad About Books
June 27-July 3, Activity Center

TRINOMA
Lobrena Event
June 25, Activity Center

MARQUEE
Pinatubo Photo Exhibit
June 20-30, Activity Center

GREENHILLS
New shopping boutiques
for May to July 2011
For bookings & reservations, please call
722-7901 or 82

ABREEZA
Mindstretchers Fitness & Arts Exhibit Students Artistic and Physical Talents Showcased, Mindstretchers Learning Center
June 20, Activity Center

MALL SPECIAL

GET A FREE MARKET! MARKET! TOTE BAG
for every P1,000 single or accumulated receipts
or get 3 for only P72 for every P500 single or accumulated receipts.
Promo runs from July 1 to 31, 2011.

glorietta Greenbelt Alabang Town Center Ayala Center Cebu Market! Market! Trinoma Marquee Abreezo

Visit www.ayalamalls.com.ph or text AYALA MALLS to 2948

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

K-GPPH

BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY

BY PAUL LOJOCO

DICK TRACY

LOVE MEOWTS

BY ELIZABETH MCCHORALD

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

RIKO MACHINE

BY RYAN ABRON

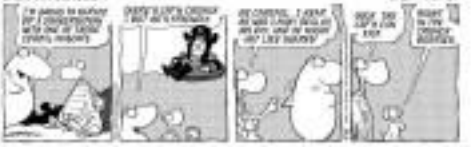
DEDI

BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY



DARTAN

BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULADA

BY MARA CELI

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

YOUR BIRTH TODAY You have a vibrant mind and possess a gusto in whatever you undertake. Whether you're a student or a worker, now is the time to make your creative impulses count. You have much to say. Socialites will be your confidantes. You have your zealous loyalties. You have much to say. Socialites will be your confidantes. You have your zealous loyalties. You have much to say. Socialites will be your confidantes. You have your zealous loyalties.

Birthdate (A Ricky Gervais, comedy; director Sonny Chiba; actor Cody Simms; singer Lionel Ritchie)

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Emotional upheaval can be difficult and will likely overshadow all work matters. Be careful not to say anything you may regret later. Be cautious in dealing with the romantic. A friend's advice can provide the

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You are an enthusiastic person by nature, but you can be overly opinionated in matters that involve your creative instincts. You have much to say. Socialites will be your confidantes. You have your zealous loyalties. You have much to say. Socialites will be your confidantes. You have your zealous loyalties.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You are an enthusiastic person by nature, but you can be overly opinionated in matters that involve your creative instincts. You have much to say. Socialites will be your confidantes. You have your zealous loyalties. You have much to say. Socialites will be your confidantes. You have your zealous loyalties.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Some opportunities might come your way today. For some reason, you haven't confided anything to them. You have much to say. Socialites will be your confidantes. You have your zealous loyalties. You have much to say. Socialites will be your confidantes. You have your zealous loyalties.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You have a lively, smart outlook. A misunderstood ability can help. An opportunity to be hired is presented by a male. Be cautious in dealing with the romantic. A friend's advice can provide the

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Do your duty and you'll have more success and satisfaction. Be cautious in dealing with the romantic. A friend's advice can provide the

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Pleasures are enhanced by romantic company and you'll find you can share what you're thinking about. A new, successful romance relieves anxiety or overwhelming doubt. A

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Some opportunities might come your way today. For some reason, you haven't confided anything to them. You have much to say. Socialites will be your confidantes. You have your zealous loyalties. You have much to say. Socialites will be your confidantes. You have your zealous loyalties.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Other people will have their own ideas and may help. Nonetheless will happen that others can't see your way. Be careful not to say anything you may regret later. Be careful not to say anything you may regret later. Be careful not to say anything you may regret later.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Be careful not to say anything you may regret later. Be careful not to say anything you may regret later. Be careful not to say anything you may regret later. Be careful not to say anything you may regret later.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) You can access your gifts more easily. Be careful not to say anything you may regret later. Be careful not to say anything you may regret later. Be careful not to say anything you may regret later.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) You are quick, and the entertainment world will draw you to a successful collaboration. Be careful not to say anything you may regret later. Be careful not to say anything you may regret later. Be careful not to say anything you may regret later.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs see www.sudoku.com

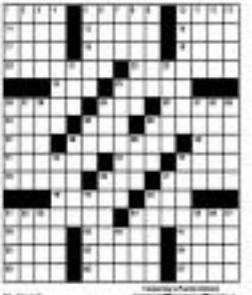
Answer to previous puzzle

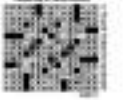
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	9		8			3		
				4				2
8			6					9
	1			2				
	6						1	
				5			7	
3					7			8
4				3				
		2			9		5	

Difficulty Level ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE





NOW SHOWING

Pitt-Penn starrer offers no easy answers

By Rita F Jadio

BRAD PITT, Sean Penn and Actress Domiziana pender into the movieverse of human existence in Terrence Malick's masterpiece "The Tree of Life." But, the questions they ask—especially those addressed to God—don't have easy answers. "Why do bad things happen to good people?" "Who are we to find?"

The inclusive director's cinematic dreams, winner of the coveted Palme d'Or at this year's Cannes film fest, examines the consequences of tragedy in the context of a family's grief over the death of a beloved son and brother.

Mr. and Mrs. O'Brien (Pitt, Chastain) and their three boys thrive in the safety of their peaceful suburban community in the 1950s—he is a loving and stern as she is doting and affectionate. But, the couple's world is shattered when their 19-year-old son dies—a tragedy that also haunts their eldest son, Jack (Hunter). Does Mr. Oba's puzzling hair with his passing? How does this tragic turn of events figure in the larger scheme of things?

Malick returns with a cryptic meditation on life, love and loss whose unpronounceable narration is too radical for mainstream cinema. Moviegoers who have been weaned on more spoon-fed linear storytelling will find the movie slow and ponderous, but the filmmaker astutely conveys the laborious progression and evolution of human life.

Patience

But, patience has its rewards. A must-see for movie buffs, "The Tree of Life" offers insights about the metaphysical aspects of our existence by utilizing provocative analogies that put them in perspective—starting with the Big Bang and the unfathomable story of the biblical character, Job.

Most can't stringently think that the fear of death is an evolutionary issue that left by a wounded chimpanzee dying on a deserted beach during the dawn of the dinosaurs. This is not one of the many breathtaking images which bombards the cinematic landscape.

The movie, which could benefit from judicious editing, feels more like a prayer delivered by its cast in suboptimal musings. As Mrs. O'Brien holds her impressionable toddler in a tight embrace, she pauses to the translucent sky and gobbles darkness. "Thats' where God lives!" But, when she's overwhelmed with grief over the boy's passing many years later, she questions. God's wisdom. "Where were You?"

Charged with visual poetry, the film brings together a disparate series, but Malick infuses them with palpable humanity and searing vision. As its characters go about their busy lives, they're always guided by Mrs. O'Brien's gentle reminder

PITT: Must take a loving look more before in "The Tree of Life."

"The only way to be happy is to love. Without it, life just passes you by."

Practice makes perfect

WHEN WE were studying at the Brooks Institute in Calabasas, my professors constantly reminded us that "it's the lens that's taking the photos" and that "photographers are to the same level as lawyers and doctors."

Taking wonderful photographs has nothing to do with the brand of a camera. It's the photographer's technical and creative abilities and his chosen subjects that make those great images.

Photography is one to learn? As they say, practice makes perfect. To be a good photographer, you have to "see" beyond what's in front of you. Be aware of proper lighting, and from those corners angling.

For five Saturdays from 2-5 p.m. starting July 16, we will be conducting an Advanced Photography Workshop at our studio: Rm. 329, 180 Design Plaza, 2.63 Mission Glen in Riverside Peppers), $60 for 8, Mobile Ulp, Call 899-1787.

Registration for our Balance Photo Safari is now open, for trips between December and May. Not sure? Get more information.

Register now or e-mail me: dylanmoore@yahoo.com.

Remembering Rene Requiestas

By Dulce Cervantes

IT WAS theater directors, Antonio Jaen and Tony Mabesa, who first showed me to a new but distinctive talent. Rene Requiestas.

Rene was petite when he was introduced to me—but, immediately I sensed a great (tangible) streak in him. He exuded out and kind in photos, obviously aware of the camera's existence—a sign of a good performer.

He was cast in a Hollywood-speaking comedies in my production of the sarsuela, "Pugad ng Pitong Buhay."

Rene was shining with caliber distinctive looks. She sings, sweet voice had a real expressions, similar to Joe B. Brown's. He was very dainty and operated a loop of a monotone tache. He would die tragic tales with a dramatization for greatest comic effect.

Perfect timing

He also spoke in a guttural manner, like many jeepney drivers. He had perfect timing. And, he loved the audiences in front. He knew how to milk laughter from them.

such in they loved him!

Ishmael Bernal, our boss in his films and recommended him to Maribes Rina Bonga, who hired him as a regular on "Superbalot."

Then another, Jerry de Leon cast him as his some-stealing sidekick. Then, Vilma Santos's own Rene opposite Nida Aquino in a series of films, in which it was obvious that he was to prove as she was rich. This contract pleased moviegoers.

Rene smoked and drank too much. As he got more successful, there were more accusations that fame had gone to his head. But, he remained essentially to his former mannerisms.

COMEDY: Rene Mon has upgraded to "grave questions" to keep viewers "rotter tuned."

wiped-up role to bumper and less than than the original flick, which at least had an actor kind of believable acting that is. Here it's mostly trite around the park for the boys—and viewers like Ben's fan in that?

It's also even more gross and gross out than the first film, both visually and melodic. The producers' enemy and cynical gambit is paying off, because this sequel has, like the original, ended up commercially in the black—which just goes to show what passes for entertainment quite a number of moviegoers are. Scan to some shoddy comic ones cranked, nobody has ever lost money in Hollywood underestimating the intelligence of the bingeing audience.

Predictability . . .

From page D-1

This is the series shaping up to an eventual duel between the genius and Jamaya. Which may be why Gene's role is being built up so much, to make him a really formidable foe, villain and mega-monster, when push comes finally come to shove.

The intention is clear, but the build-up lacks dimension and believability because the guest's motivations and actions—as the most talented staff of TV tackle issues, simply gives a pivotal and riskier twist.

Vicious acts

Gene is exposed to be a homophobic actress, but even his outrageous behavior and acts of wife and kids don't seem and don't always ring true. Even his behavior at the first rubber, to watch her repeated popularity in local TV's reported "queen of primetime"—last, it fails to develop on both counts.

To be fair to Mickie, she works really hard to make her latest TV drama a success—to the extent of "going backless" to show her cleavage—to show how cloudy her character has been punished and degraded. She also shouts and expresses anger with genuine conviction even.

Unfortunately, the backless dress and soft-to-be-rubber ribbon "bracelet" in the making. Her crying scenes are still too "rigid" to be truly touching. And, her kissing scenes as a woman are patently nominal and phlegmatic.

We trust him, after she gets over her current lameness and messy-ness, to be a better model—and of her cubbed, to watch her repeated popularity in local TV's reported "queen of primetime"—last, it fails to de-

'Spartacus' prequel debuts July 1

"SPARTACUS: GODS of the Arena," the highly anticipated "prequel" to the hit series, "Spartacus: Blood and Sand," will debut on Friday, July 1, at 10 p.m. on Max. The six-part series focuses on the story of Lentulus, the charismatic gladiator aspiring to become Champion of Capua (Dustin Clare) and his mentor Batiatus (John Hannah), setting up for the drama to ensue in the Roman empire.

Manila show for McCoo and Davis

Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis, former vocalist of The 5th Dimension, perform their greatest hits at Resorts World Genting on July 7. Their show set is titled Moonsong, who has a local following of his own.

MONTAGE

Seattle's Best's latest tempting concoctions

Seattle's Best Coffee turns up its sweet tooth for its newest tempting concoction, Mocha Vanilla—a fun right on tea, get, reducing you to crave every drop. Whether in hot latte, blended or over ice. Skinny Vanilla has Seattle's Best's signature Full-Bodied and tasty real serious, but it's low in calories, fat and sugar. SBC brand ambassador, Mikael Daez, Fabian Rios and JC Tiuseco, re-read the mocktail (Visit www.seattlesbestcoffee.com.ph.)

'Transformers, 3'

Supermodel Rosie Huntington-Whiteley takes on a challenging and physically demanding role in Michael Bay's megahit sci-fi sequel "Transformers" franchise, "Dark of the Moon." She takes over from Megan Fox, who played her character, Mikaela, in the first two movies.

HUNTINGTON-WHITELY: Cast in latest "Transformers" installment.

Bumpier ride for 'Hangover' gang

By Mercie U. Torres

"THE HANGOVER" was one of last year's "sleeper" hits. Real deal that its producers would flunk their lucky stars for the unexpected bonanza, and spend the rest of their days sky-laugh counting their mega-millions. But, hoping and fatingly to make even more mega-millions, they're back with "The Hangover 2."

Now, sequels of hits have become par for the course in Hollywood, but this is too much. Instead of putting its considerable clout serves in a bodes anything, the sequel is dead-on-arrival with a dog gone unwieldingly preposterously and spatially wrong. It's multi-laugh, banality and multi predictable enough to give you a wolfe bad—hangover.

Drag bingo

This time around, the gang is in Thailand for another crack at the wrecks wedding of the cryptic—and, when they wake up after an "unintentional" drug binge, they've all gone back and made another. Why does the drama have a new father on his face? Why is a wacky monkey nibbling on a discombobulated human finger? Why is the bride's ruby-lid brother missing? Why do they get involved in a big drug bust over it, and why is the line of transvestite and transgender hookers?—Why?!

In fine, all these questions are answered and the wedding finally takes place. But, the "really"